

# **BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**

CHAIRMAN: John Michael Bainbridge



**Minutes of the Sports & Recreational Facilities Meeting** held at the Community Centre,  
High Street, Brampton  
**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 2021 at 7.00 pm.**

**Present:** Malcolm Beswick, Chairman, (MB), Mike Bainbridge, (JMB),  
Catriona French, (CF), Nigel Maggs, Ronald Stevenson, (RS),  
**In attendance:** Robert Steadman, Stuart Henderson (both cricket club), Simon Fletcher,  
Spartans Football club. Tess Rogers, Parish Clerk.

## **1. Apologies**

Jon Chitty, Tony Burnley.

## **2. To elect a chairman**

NM nominated Malcolm Beswick, RS seconded, all agreed. MB took the Chair.

MB said that this is the first meeting of a new committee and suggested naming the committee as above, this was agreed. He advised that only members of the Parish Council have voting rights. It is envisaged that members from all the external user groups, to incorporate football, cricket, netball, tennis including youth groups, will provide representative reports to the committee. The committee is also responsible for the play areas that fall under the Parish Council's jurisdiction.

## **3. To accept the Terms of Reference for this new committee**

It was agreed to delete the last sentence from para 6 following which it was agreed to accept the document.

## **4. Public Participation – User Group Representations.**

- 4.1 Simon Fletcher spoke on behalf of the Spartans football Club. There is a concern regarding the football nets stored behind pitch 4 being used by general users of the playing field and Simon requested that the trees/hedging behind the goals be cut back so the nets can be turned at a different angle. MB said he would meet with the grounds team to discuss if this is something they can do or if professional tree surgeons would be needed.
- 4.2 Stuart Henderson spoke on behalf of the cricket club. Speaking of the recent meeting between Allan Moore, himself, MB and David Haydon a discussion arose about the seasonal maintenance of the cricket square. Stuart asked if volunteers would be able to undertake much of the month-by-month work and would they be able to use the Parish Council equipment. The Clerk responded that yes but not any of the ride on machinery. Some cricket club members were accessing the online ground maintenance courses as recommended by Allan Moore, David Hayden and Matty Pond will also take these courses.

Concern was also noted regarding the state of the bowlers run up areas, both side of the cricket square. MB hoped this problem would be much reduced in the 2022 football season as the youth teams will be playing on the pitch at the Lady Olivia Centre.

## **5. Lady Olivia Centre; Sports Facilities, Grounds Maintenance**

### **5.1. Sports Facilities**

JMB explained that the Parish Council had made representation to Campbell Buchanan and Huntingdon District Council to speed up the take over of the Green Space, in particular the play area. MUGA and Tennis Courts

### **5.2 Grounds Maintenance.**

It is unknown what condition the football pitch will be in. MB said the Football Association will give a grant to the upkeep of the pitch providing it meets their criteria.

There may be sufficient space for a junior cricket pitch.

## **6. Memorial Centre Playing Fields including maintenance to Cricket Square and Football Pitches to include:**

**6.1.** To decide to purchase the Ram required for lowering the floodlights for maintenance work etc. The purchase price is circa £1000.00 plus £800.00 for the training on its' use. It was agreed to go ahead with this.

**6.2.** To decide on when the remaining CCTV camera should be placed on the floodlight pole, either later in November/early December or early January (this dependent on the decision made at i above.

This will happen in January.

**6.3.** Update from meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the cricket square maintenance to include to consider training for grounds men.

**6.3.1** See 4.2 above. It was agreed to formulate a maintenance plan. At the meeting it was said that the cricket square required 3-man hours a day to keep it in a good condition (this needn't be 3 hours each day but as an average across each week).

**6.3.2** Further equipment may need to be purchased to maintain this regime. It is known that a roller is required and prices for both new and second hand will be investigated to incorporate the cost into the Parish Council's 22/23 budget requirements.

**6.3.3** It was suggested that a container be purchased to store the cricket grounds maintenance equipment as it is likely it will be needed at the weekends when the Parish Grounds men are not working therefore access to the work shed unavailable.

**6.3.4** There is a water tap stop cock buried in the ground near the cricket square. An investigation into whether this can now be accessed will be carried out.

**6.3.5** Warning signs advising of danger due to fast, airborne cricket balls will be investigated.

**6.3.6** At the next full Parish Council meeting MB will ask for permission to allow volunteers to carry out maintenance work on the square.

**6.4.** To consider further maintenance to the boundary of the playing field with Garner Close, to fence or plant additional shrubbery.

The grounds men have cut back the dead foliage, ivy and overhanging trees in order to identify what is left. A discussion was held to decide on what now to place along the boundary line.

Either paladin fencing with hedging in front or just hedging. It was mentioned that, from a football viewpoint, any prickly hedging wouldn't be ideal. The residents of Garner Close should be consulted on their preference. Further consideration will be given to this before a final decision is made.

**7.** To approve/or not, the biodiversity scheme in regard to the Men's shed project (hedge along the Thrapston Road boundary).

Peter Menczer, of the village hub, had submitted his draft proposal to be made to the planning authority. Within the proposal he said that the hedge partially bordering the carpark and Thrapston Road (between the oak tree and the rubbish bin in the corner of the field nearest The

Hurdles would be widened and allow to grow to six foot high. The committee agreed to the widening of the hedge but not to allow it to grow to six foot high. Only recently the hedge had been lowered in height so that the police could see over it when passing, following complaints of anti-social behaviour by certain youths on the playing field.

**7 Skate Park.**

**7.1. Graffiti**

Of late graffiti has appeared on many areas of the skatepark. The grounds men had tried to remove this. However, to remove it would be futile as it would only reappear. Therefore, it was agreed to investigate the services of a professional graffiti artist to paint appropriate artwork on the park which, it is hoped, might dissuade the amateurs in the village from practising their skills.

**8. MUGA**

Since the introduction of the new skate park the lights to the MUGA have been inoperative. It is thought that the original wiring had been cut during the skate park build. It was agreed to approach the Parish Council's electrician for his advice on what work was required to make the lights operational. This will, quite likely, involve digging through to the conduit containing the electrical cables for the skate park lighting and feeding through new cabling to the MUGA lights.

**9. Play Areas**

The Memorial Centre play area has recently received new safety matting under the double swings and multi activity unit. New fencing for the play area is currently on order.

**10. Dug outs**

The Parish Council often receives complaints of youths smoking weed and playing loud music in one particular dug-out (that of the home team). However, it was agreed that if a cage or similar was placed around the dug-outs the youths would only move to another area of the playing field so the problem wouldn't be solved, just moved.

Four councillors meet monthly with the Neighbourhood Police Sergeant to discuss this and other concerns which may require police intervention.

**11. Next Agenda Items**

Nothing mentioned at this time.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:

Date:

Chairman