

Winsford Recreation Association

Draft minutes of the Winsford Recreation Association

Held on Wednesday 9th June 2021, at 1.30pm at Middle Glebe, Winsford.

Present: Beverley Flanagan (BF) – Chair, Gerry Flanagan (GF) - Treasurer, Jayne Luscott (JL) - Secretary, Chris How (CH), Mike Hayes (MH), David Luscott (DL), Sue Hayes (SH), Jane Orchiston (JO), Ros Dearing (RD)

BF opened the meeting at 1.30pm.

1. Chair's Welcome and Report

BF welcomed everybody to the meeting. BF thanked SH for the Plant Sale held on 29th May outside the Village Hall, which raised £223.90. And thanked CH for the mowing of the recreation field, also the collectors of the 100 club monies.

BF stated that she had requested from the Chair and Clerk of the Parish Council, the wording of Ann Le Bas's will concerning the land bequeathed to the Parish Council. As this was not yet available it was agreed by all to leave the subject for another meeting when the transfer has been completed by the Parish Council. DL is to act on behalf of the WRA to ensure the information is made available from the Parish Council.

BF explained that a comment had been made about the WRA not publishing the minutes of their meetings. It was agreed by all that the minutes could be published on the Village Website and DL is to ask the Parish Council at the next meeting if they have any objection to also posting them on the Parish Council website.

2. 100 Club

The subscription of the 100 club is made up of 180 villagers and around 10 others using the Tennis Courts.

It was agreed by all that there should be a Mid-Summer Draw. The value of prizes is to be the same as the Christmas Draw.

3. Treasurer's Report

- 100 Club Raised £2,852
- Total cash = £7,733.84
- + Charibond = £4,460.43

- Total assets = £12,194.27
- GF to continue to look at options for the Charibond to see if it is possible to get a better return on the investment.

4. Cricket/Recreation Field

At the previous meeting it was agreed that no dogs were to be allowed on the recreation field, however, it became clear that when the Cricket Teams played there were several dogs present. BF suggested that dogs were allowed in the field on a lead. CH stated that dogs should be allowed for the cricket days. It was agreed that between April and September dogs would be allowed on the recreation field for structured events only but must be kept on a lead, and owners must pick up after their dogs. October to March dogs would only

be allowed on the recreation field if kept on a lead, and again owners must pick up after their dogs. New signage to be arranged.

It was suggested that a dog bin should be purchased by WRA at a cost of circa £89, if the Parish Council arrange and pay for it to be emptied on a regular basis. DL to approach the Parish Council at the next meeting.

Fixture Listing to be displayed at the entrance to the Recreation Field.

BF has received a quote from Andrew Blackmore for the replacement fencing which came in at £760. Further quotes are to be obtained.

Paul Sams is going to be erecting the directional sign for Recreation Field at the beginning of Howetown Lane.

5. Tennis

A donation of £2,000 has been received from a charity who wish to keep their identity anonymous. This donation is to be used for the renovation of the Tennis Courts only. This charity has also stated that if we raise funds for the renovation of the Tennis Courts it will match it up to £10,000.

There was discussion as to whether to repair/make good the Tennis Courts. Quotes for repairing the Tennis Courts from Ashley Leisure Services was £8,000 and Soft Surfaces Limited was £10,500.

GF proposed a full renovation of the Tennis Courts, this was seconded by JO and agreed by all. This would be at a cost of around £40,000.

CH expressed concern about the cost of new Tennis Courts.

CH suggested that a Tennis Club be formed like the Cricket Club. This was discussed and BF had approached several of the regular tennis players who did not want to take responsibility for it.

It was agreed to form a working party to Fund Raise for renovation of the Tennis Courts. JO, GF, BF, DL volunteered.

CH to approach people that helped with the fund raising of the Cricket Pavilion.

SH also explained the process of Fund raising for the Village Hall.

It is very difficult job to manage the use of the Tennis Courts. GF explained about an entry system for the Tennis Courts which is explained further as follows:

Tennis Court Entrance

We contacted the LTA, and this was their response.

In simple terms the access control system is a gate with a PIN pad, linked via the 3G signal direct to the booking software 'clubspark'.

For the user they go onto the system, book and pay for a court and receive a PIN code via email. This code only works for the time of booking.

This technology is being used very successful in towns and cities across the South West to allow the public to 'self-manage' access to courts.

Some example to view are in [Central Park, Plymouth](#) and [Boscawen Park, Truro](#) which shows booking sheet and booking process.

The key for most enquiries tends to be costs vs benefits – It is quite expensive to install (£6-£7k) and even though we maybe able to help with that the key point is about the 'on-costs'.

The gate maintenance fee is c£700 and the LTA registration fee to get the software is £120. This absolutely can be covered generated by public bookings at approx. £5 - £6 a court – but

given the location of the courts and low population, it would rely on some tourist use in the summer to generate income needed to sustain this.

Despite how good this technology is – there are lower cost solutions, for example in not-so-far away Minehead Recreation Ground they use the [booking system](#), but have a more simple coded padlock which they update regularly to ensure people don't get in when they want. This may be a good start point to see what demand is like and would cost the registration fee of £120 and a maybe £20 for a good lock.

BF also suggested we consider an online booking system. Further investigation is on-going.

A clean-up day of Tennis Courts and Car Park was agreed to be conducted on Monday 21st June at 2pm. This will include weeding, strimming and painting.
DL to remove plaque from TC gate.

6. Fund Raising

A skittles evening held on Saturday 29th May raised £30, which was handed over to GF by DL. SH also passed over an additional £30 as money raised through further plant sales in her drive. A picnic on the recreation field was suggested. SH suggested the second Saturday in August which would normally be Fete Day. If Covid restrictions are relaxed, we will go ahead with this event. A working party to be formed for this. RD, JO, JL volunteered.

Other suggestions for fund raising were:

Elvis Night

Quiz

Treasure Hunt & Pasties

7. AOB.

None.

Next meeting date TBA