

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Recreation & Open Spaces was held at the Sports Pavilion on Thursday, 22nd February at 7.30 pm.

Present: Mrs C Barnett (Chairman) Mr J Denison
Mrs A Lawson

Representatives: Mr B Feest (Cricket)
Mrs E Henly (Bowling)
Mr J Jupp (Football)
Mr J Leadbeatter (Groundsman)
Mr C Organ (Rugby) from 8.05pm

5. **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Mrs J Botting.

6. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th January 2007, were received and signed.

7. **Matters Arising**

The Clerk reported that the shower curtains were due imminently.

8. **REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORTS**

Cricket

Mr Feest thanked the Council for their support with the S106 application hearing. The Cricket Club had been awarded enough to provide covers.

Mr Feest confirmed to members that the sightscreens would be taken down and removed on the 31st March 2007. The Clerk thanked Mr Feest for providing two contractors who would be able to give quotations for repairing the damage to the outfield and advised the Committee the Assistant Clerk was dealing with this, as he knew where the damage had occurred.

Football

Mr Jupp advised members that, due to the wet weather, they were struggling to play all their games and would certainly need to play evening games during April. He also informed members that the Football Club were holding a reunion on the 21st April 2007 and as so many people were attending, they may have to hold the event at the Village Hall. He reminded members the Football Club were holding a Race Night at the Village Hall on 3rd March 2007.

Mr Jupp then asked when the electronic noticeboard would be functioning as they had many items they would like to advertise. The Clerk advised members that the Assistant Clerk was in constant communication with Polycomp, who supplied the noticeboard and the latest information was that an electrician has been instructed to repair the wiring.

Groundsman

Mr Leadbeatter informed members he had had a meeting with the contractor due to spray the Recreation Ground. The contractor had stated the best way forward was to have the Ground sprayed twice but this would double the cost.

The Clerk was instructed to get another quotation, to include two visits to the Recreation Ground, in time to have this ratified by full Council.

He also reported that CJ Uden, the drain specialists had started work but had found the pipe was not a 6" as had been expected but was at least 12" in diameter. They had also followed the pipe back in both directions but could not find any undamaged. He advised that the pipe runs through to Chestnut Walk. Udens were going to return with a camera to do more investigative work but Mr Leadbeatter was worried the costs would spiral. The Committee agreed the work had to be done.

(Mr Organ joined the meeting).

Bowling

Mrs Henly had nothing to report other than to advise members the Bowling Club season was due to start on 22nd April 2007 and they would have a working party tidying up during March.

Rugby

Mr Organ started by apologising to the Council and to Mr Leadbeatter for what may seem as the Club's cavalier attitude recently. He advised members that their main pitch at Parham was unusable due to the many flints on the ground. They had been banned from playing league and cup matches until the problem was rectified. Mr Leadbeatter told him that his Groundsman, Kevin Church had telephoned at 1pm on a Saturday to ask whether they could use the Recreation Ground pitch and had been told it was not possible. The match had still gone ahead, an hour later. Mr Organ explained it had been too late to cancel, as they had at least 15 players to notify plus the visiting team, the officials and many other people. He apologised again and assured the Committee and Mr Leadbeatter he would do his utmost to ensure it did not happen again. He explained they would need to have a decision on the fitness of the pitch on the Thursday to allow them time to contact everybody.

He then asked if they could reconsider using the Cousins Way Recreation Ground for the foreseeable future and would like to arrange a meeting between the Parish Council and the Rugby Club about extending their lease for a short period, after the present one expires in 2008. Mrs Barnett thought this may be possible and was willing to hold discussions at a later date. She went on to mention how she had seen two rugby players lift a 5-a-side goalpost and throw it out of their way the previous Saturday. This had caused the goalpost to break. Mr Organ told Mr Jupp the Rugby Club would be willing to help with the repairs to the goalpost.

He then went on to advise members that all league games had been rescheduled to be played at the Recreation Ground, which was news to all present.

Mrs Barnett informed Mr Organ that rugby players had been returning the line-marking machine and had driven across the Recreation Ground in a landrover. This vehicle had become stuck and had needed pushing out. She advised him that the Parish Council were getting quotations for the work and the invoice would be sent through to the Rugby Club for payment.

Mr Leadbeatter told Mr Organ that he had asked for the removal of the Rugby Club's trailer on numerous occasions and also some rugby posts which had been dumped in a ditch in Cousins Way. He was also asked to arrange the removal of some metal sleeves, which were sticking out of the ground and could cause injury. Mr Organ assured members all this would be done.

Mr Leadbeatter stated he found it rather annoying that no representative of the Rugby Club had attended a meeting for more than a year and only appeared when they wanted something.

Mrs Barnett asked Mr Organ to let Mr Leadbeatter have a fixture list and then thanked the representatives for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.24pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 22nd March 2007

..... Chairman

.....Date