

Minutes of Meeting of the Queen Camel Parish Council Playing Field Management Committee, Monday 2 October 2023 at Memorial Hall

Present: Cllr Angus Davidson (AD), Ian Conway (IC), Marian Davies (MD) and Sue Gettings (SG)

10/01 Election of Chairman

MD suggested the role of Chairman should be 'rolling', with a different committee member assuming the role at each meeting. SG seconded and recommended if the designated chair could not attend the next person on the rota should stand in. All voted in favour. MD assumed the Chair for the meeting, AD to assume the Chair for the following meeting, SG the meeting after that.

MD suggested IC act as Secretary and take minutes at each meeting, SG seconded, all voted in favour.

10/02 Minutes of previous meeting to be confirmed as correct

AD proposed approving the minutes, SG seconded, all voted in favour.

Opportunity for members of the Parish to speak – present as observers were Parish Councillors John Brendon (JB), John Carnegie (JC) and Bryan Norman (BN). None elected to speak at this point.

10/03 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Phil Jones (PJ) and Stewart Willes (SW).

10/04 Declarations of Interest

None declared

01/05 Update on pervious and outstanding Actions

The committee noted with thanks the installation of the Jubilee bench by PJ and the thanks received by the Jubilee committee.

AD agreed to arrange the sharpening of the gang mower. JC pointed out the mower needed to be articulated to mow properly but its construction appeared to be rigid preventing it from working effectively. JB noted some of the blades were bent. AD agreed to get these matters looked at.

IC reported the ride-on wicket roller was in good condition and did not appear to need servicing. AD reported the field roller could use a coat of paint.

Repairs to the tractor were noted along with thanks to Cllr Dan Hewlett for the use of his tractor over the summer at no cost to the PFMC.

The community compost bins were installed by AD and SG, SG suggested a third bin would be useful. JC offered to supply pallets to build a third bin. SG to contact

the field maintenance volunteers to ensure that both grass cuttings and leaves were deposited into the compost bin. AD has offered to trim around the area.

The PFMC noted the PC had discussed the installation of a separate circuit in the pavilion at its meeting on 18 September 2023 and subsequently removed it from its agenda. SG asked that it be re-added to the agenda for the next PC meeting in November 2023 as the quote of £75 for the work was extremely reasonable and any future quote would likely be a lot higher. Those PC members present agreed to add to the agenda for the next PC meeting.

The allocation of specific roles e.g. suggested Playing Field Manager, Pavilion Manager, Maintenance Equipment Manager etc was deferred given there were only four members present. Time is required to encourage more people to join the PFMC group.

The PFMC agreed with the PC that as long as any future events on the playing field were organised by the PFMC, or a council-led working group, the current public liability insurance cover was the best value for the community.

10/06 Pavilion

Thanks were extended to PJ and Mrs J for the cleaning of the pavilion following the end of the cricket season.

MD confirmed the 11 chairs which disappeared were borrowed by the Tennis Club and will be returned.

MD expressed concern that turning the water off in the pavilion would also turn the water off at the Tennis Club and asked that a solution be found. AD agreed to investigate the options.

IC relayed comments from Simon Patton to the Cricket Club regarding the possibility of installing a waste bin near the pavilion to stop rubbish being thrown on the floor. JC suggested the PFMC contact Streetscene, SG agreed to follow up. The PFMC noted the various actions required over the winter and agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

10/07 Playing Field

The PFMC would like to offer thanks to everyone who has volunteered to maintain the playing field this year.

IC agreed to chase up the invoice for the white line paint.

Contact details were requested for the person who applies the weedkiller in case they decide not to continue with the spraying next year. PJ to action.

Regarding the creation of a working group to clear leaves and generally assist with maintenance of the playing field, MD and SG suggested asking parents of Cricket

Club juniors if they would be willing to help, otherwise the work is left to the usual small band of dedicated volunteers. IC agreed to chase up.

10/08 Maintenance Equipment

SG and AD agreed to remove the old push-along mowers and to discuss with PJ the best option to replace them.

The PFMC noted the disappearance of the leaf blower and suggested an ad be placed in The Camels magazine, on the PC website and on the Camel Action Whatsapp Group asking whoever has taken it to put it back. AD asked whether the leaf blower was covered by the Cricket Club's insurance, IC agreed to chase up. Meanwhile, AD has offered to loan his leaf blower.

10/09 Play Area

JB confirmed a draft agreement for the SCC land is with SCC and an agreement is almost at hand.

JB also confirmed the Tender Board had agreed to hire a consultant, with the approval of the PC, at a cost of c£3,000 to ensure the tender meets the specifications and requirements of the National Lottery. JB confirmed that Rob Hinks was leading on the Tender Board. A concrete table tennis table was suggested as an ideal piece of equipment to occupy the older children and teenagers. It was also suggested that there should be a separate pavilion/ shelter for the teenagers built away from the play area.

The PFMC received the report from SC on the Play Area and agreed an inspection of the site was necessary – SG and MD agreed to carry this out. It was also agreed the turtle should be removed altogether to prevent injury.

BN suggested the PC put a notice on its website to explain that the existing play equipment would be removed over a period of time to make way for new equipment, without making mention of the National Lottery grant.

JB suggested the trees around the play area and the playing field all needed trimming before the winter.

10/10 Club Reports

Cricket Club – IC reported it had been another successful season for QCCC with more than 100 senior and junior members taking part in matches. Sadly, the Sunday MWL (Mid-Western League) has been disbanded due to too few clubs being able to field teams, which hasn't been a problem for QCCC. IC flagged the stand-out batting performance of senior player Joel Enticott who almost beat the club's all-time record run score in a single season. For the 2024 season, the club expects to field an Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Saturday senior team. Any Sunday matches will likely be friendlies, with the added possibility of Sunday and midweek T20 matches.

Tennis Club – MD reported it had been a successful season with all its teams moving up a league, although that meant tougher matches, and everyone who wanted to play was given the opportunity. The club said goodbye to coach Antonia after four years, but her replacement appears to be making a good impression from feedback received. The club has entered two mixed teams in the winter league.

10/11 Looking ahead

There were no calendar items planned for the next six months but MD expressed regret that the summer Open Day, intended to showcase the various sporting activities in the village, didn't happen due to her being hospitalised. The PFMC hopes MD will agree to organise a similar event for 2024.

10/12 Finance Report

The non-payment of fees by the Cricket Club (£450) was noted, IC to chase up. JB asked how QCCC collects fees, IC explained it is per player per match (e.g. £7 for Seniors). JB asked when the fees were last reviewed, it was agreed to delay any decision on increasing the fees until the PC had a clearer picture of the club's financial position. IC tasked to chase up.

Overall spending came in within budget, but it was agreed the PFMC should set out its expected spending for 2024 so that it can present a plan to the PC.

10/13 AOB

SG spoke about the need to raise the profile of the Playing Field as very little revenue was being collected. Again, no football this season! Are there possible missed opportunities? Could marketing the field be an Agenda item for the next meeting?

MD reported a parent from the Bumps & Tots group had contacted her regarding loud music and swearing on the playing field at night and her suggestion to call the police in the hope a PCSO was dispatched to investigate. MD observed there were several groups of youths creating a nuisance on the playing fields, by the church and by the old school, mainly out of boredom. MD proposed engaging with the parents by asking them to join a working group to come up with suggestions as to how to work together on a solution. SG suggested inviting at least two teenagers to join the PFMC.

IC suggested the PFMC investigate the 'Make Space For Girls' charity which helps fund safe spaces for girls in play areas. IC to action.

10/14 Date of next meeting

It was agreed the next PFMC meeting would take place on Monday 8 January 2024 in the Marples Room, Memorial Hall, Queen Camel.