



Minutes of the Wellow Recreation AGM held on the 7th April 2022 at 8.00pm in the Wellow Sports Pavilion

Present: Beth Jackson
Mike Clarkson
Debbie Clarkson
Sue Chivers
Jonathan Wyld
Sophie Hart

Plus 7 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Received from Giles Pearman, Rob Greig, Hugh Prentice, Andy Smith and Pam Smith
2. **Approve Minutes of the 2021 AGM** - The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Chairman's Report

a. What we do

Manage and maintain the playing field and play park on behalf of the Parish Council.

Share Management of the Sports Pavilion with Wellow Valley Tennis

Promote sporting and fitness activities for residents of Wellow and neighbouring villages.

b. What have we achieved over the last year:

- Completed the rebuilding of the children's play park and organised the release of the remaining funds to the contractor. The play equipment is subject to a 2.5% guarantee retention for 1 year from 5th May 2021.
- Carried out remedial work following a ROSPA Play Park Inspection report, the work involved the removal and replacement of some rotten 'legacy' wooden structures.
- Ensured the play park, playing field and Sports Pavilion have complied with the government Covid-19 restrictions.
- Remained financially sustainable despite loss of income from sports



- groups and fund-raising events.
- The Sports Pavilion accumulated a £749 deficit for the year shared equally between Wellow Valley Tennis and WR mainly due to the low income from the pavilion.
 - We work well together with the various village organisations to make things work and the Parish Council works with us to make things happen when they need to.
 - We continued to do our job in maintaining the sports field on behalf of the Parish Council

What are our strategic objectives for the next few years:

Promote

- Continued focus on the increase of participation in sports and fitness on the playing field. Sports currently include walking football, regular boot camps, boules, additional football matches, regular cricket. Attracting different clubs to use our facilities will allow us to secure a small income from coaches for the use.
- Planning to hold a Wellow 10km Ramble and Run and a Love, Peace & Community celebration together with the Community Chest this year.
- Attract new talent to the WR Trustees to help with the promotion of WR sports eg 'What's On' notices on the Notice Board, website updates, interviews with Sports Leaders and leverage Social Media opportunities to promote WR.

Growth

- Evolve the tennis model so that WR sports are further utilised by Tennis and plan to engage a new coaching team (Blue Sky Team) following very successful Tennis Camps during the school holidays.
- Increase St Julian's school usage of the sports facilities during school time and after school clubs ie netball and tennis in addition to weekly football held by Raph on Mondays.
- Return of St Julian's School's Sports Day to the Playing Field.
- Increase the income for the pavilion through advertising and social media. Looking to reinstate Pilates, language classes and children's parties following the recent relaxation of the Covid-19 rules.



Maintain, Continue & Improve

- Following the successful completion of the play park approximately £5k of the remaining funds are now held by WR and the Parish Council. These funds will form a sinking fund for repairs and the replacement of play equipment to ensure good working order and compliance with Health & Safety.
- Improve and level the surface of the football pitch and goal mouths once approval has been given by the Parish Council.
- Explore opportunities to improve the space currently utilised by the Outdoor Gym. WR has recently received a proposal to dismantle the facility due to low usage and a request for a replacement table tennis table.
- Continue work with the nominated sports leads and stay in touch with their requirements.
- Share success stories and experiences across all sports through social media.
- Obtain feedback from the Parish Council and Wellow residents for proposed improvement initiatives and act on any actions that arise.

Comments are as follows:

- MC reported that the PC has agreed to release funds for the improvement of the football pitch - see Sports Group Report
- Bea Dowty said that a table tennis table close to the boules piste could result in ping pong balls interfering with matches. She suggested revisiting the Terms and Conditions of the grant for the Outdoor Gym before allowing the removal of the equipment. The Chairman stated that no action would be taken before carrying out a survey of opinion among villagers.
- The Chairman confirmed that the balance of the funds raised for the Play Park Renewal Project would be held as a sinking fund for future repairs and replacement of the play equipment and that we would not proceed with purchase of the final piece of equipment
- Olivia Elliott mentioned that she has been in contact with the school regarding increased use of the playing field for sports instead of the school playground, also the use of the tennis courts for netball from September. A notice has gone out from the school asking for volunteers to help.
- Shirley Gaines raised the possibility of selling ice-creams and coffees during school Sports Day. Debbie Clarkson suggested the use of the Pavilion.



4. Treasurer's Reports & Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Income and Expenditure statement for the year ending 31 December 2021. Despite the loss of income from Community Chest events and the reduced utilisation of the playing field and Sports Pavilion the deficit had been kept to only £36.15 with a year end cash balance of £8,008.01 of which £2,414.05 was reserved as the Play Park fund raising balance.

In response to a question from the floor the Treasurer confirmed that the 3-year contract for maintenance of the playing field and children's play park at a fixed cost of £3,240 per year had expired and that the Parish Council had agreed to renew the contract with Greensward with a new 3-year fixed price of £3,402 per year, an increase of 5%

Certain infrequent special maintenance items such as repairing goalmouths and verti-draining plus top dressing are subject to additional costs.

5. Election of Trustees

In accordance with the constitution, all elected charity trustees retired from office and the following put themselves forward for re-election:

Beth Jackson
Mike Clarkson
Giles Pearman
Jonathan Wyld
Sophie Hart

The Chairman stated that Beth Jackson and Mike Clarkson had served five consecutive terms therefore according to the constitution they could serve only one more term. It was therefore important to identify potential new trustees in advance of the next AGM.

The five members were proposed for re-election by Sophie Cole and seconded by Shirley Gaines. They were elected unanimously with one abstention.

The following members put themselves forward for election as new charity trustees:



Olivia Elliott - proposed by Beth Jackson, seconded by Shirley Gaines
Lisa Hint - proposed by Debbie Clarkson, seconded by Jonathan Wyld

Both were elected unanimously

The Chairman thanked the two ex-officio charity trustees Cllr. Sue Chivers and Cllr. Debbie Clarkson who are appointed for one year fixed periods by the Parish Council,. The latter will retire on 25 August 2002 having served as a charity trustee for six one year periods.

In response to a question from the floor Jonathan Wyld gave his opinion that changing the Constitution was a very complex procedure and that it was preferable to ensure a healthy turnover of charity trustees. He confirmed that trustees who step down having served 6 consecutive terms can stand again for re-election after an interval of two years.

6. Sports Group reports

Mike Clarkson reported on the drainage improvement works to the playing field carried out by Greensward under the supervision of Cllr. Dave Workman. The additional 6-inch drainage pipe plus the 'bund' located close to the Hammertons' property have so far had the desired effect of preventing a recurrence of the flooding suffered in 2021

The new fixed cricket cages installed in 2021 with grant funding from Sport England were a major improvement, successfully withstanding the autumn gales. The netting had been taken down in November to avoid further wind damage and would be re-installed in May.

The football field had been judged as unsuitable for adult play by the 'Badgers' who had suffered some minor injuries during the first game of the 2021 so had decided against further use of the pitch. A meeting held recently between Andy Boyce of Greensward, Cllr. Dave Workman and Mike Clarkson had concluded that the pitch was unsafe for play and the remedial actions recommended by Andy Boyce of Verti-draining (10-inch spikes) and the application of 15 tonnes of top-dressing were approved by the Parish Council at a total cost of £1,845 including rebuilding and re-turfing of the goalmouths. The funding would come from the Parish Council 'sinking fund' for playing field repair and maintenance which would shortly have a total balance of £2,000 fed by donations from Wellow Valley Tennis.



The meeting expressed its gratitude to WVT for these generous donations.

Lisa Hunt mentioned the interest in an evening Boot Camp on the playing field. The Treasurer mentioned the policy of requesting a modest donation of £5 per session from the organiser towards the costs of field maintenance but that this could be waived for the first 3 months to enable the sessions to become established.

Bea Dowty reported that Wellow Boules had had to restrict its activities during the pandemic but that play was returning to normal in 2022. The team would play in the Bath Boules League on Thursday evenings from May to August. The traditional New Year's Day tournament would take place with funds raised going to a local charity. There had been no indoor boules during the year due to Covid restrictions but it might be of interest to children in 2022? The popular egg-shooting would be repeated at the September Village Show and the regular Wednesday and Sunday drop-in sessions would re-commence on 20th April.

7. Pavilion report

The Pavilion was closed to members and the public for an extended period during the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021. The levels of use and therefore of income were therefore depressed.

Due to strict cost control we have been able to keep the deficit within reason and many thanks to the Village Hall for allowing us to share the free Truespeed fibre broadband saving more than £50 per month. The costs are shared equally between WR and WVT.

The manufacturers of the facility came to perform some required maintenance which they did for no cost.

Thanks to Liz Wharton who cleans the facility twice a week and keeps a watchful eye on the building.

Renewed efforts are being made to hire the pavilion for classes and parties. In the meantime it is used regularly by WVT members during coaching and club nights. It is also used for village events and by other sporting groups using the playing field. Boules post-league match suppers will take place in the pavilion fortnightly over the summer months.

8. Close of Meeting