

WELLOW RECREATION MEETING MINUTES, 1st NOVEMBER 2023

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PG reported that Alice Ford was unable to attend.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

PG introduced Maggie Fick as a new member of Wellow Recreation. She is currently unable to enrol as a full trustee under Charity Commission rules but will be an energetic and much appreciated addition to the group at a critical time.

Alice Ford was welcomed on board in her absence.

We look forward to working with both Maggie and Alice.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES, 23rd AUGUST

The minutes were approved.

TREASURER REPORT

A number of issues were encountered in setting up authorized signatories for PG, TG and TH under a particularly onerous procedure operated by the Co-op Bank.

TG has set up a new spreadsheet to record financial performance, with a number of tabs to “slice and dice” the data in a way that is accessible and understood by all. The intention is to make the spreadsheet available on a shared drive.

Wellow Rec’s current bank balance was reported to be £56,000, with an available Wellow Rec balance of £13,660, subject to ringfencing as follows:-

Wellow Rec:	£9057.98
Play Park reserve:	£2,264.05
Wellow Way 10K:	£608.11

Arts (Outdoor theatre): £1730.44

Total £13,660.58

In June, Wellow Rec received a generous donation of £5,000 from the will of Emma Rose's father, for which we are extremely grateful.

A latest assessment of our 2023 income and expenses indicates a position close to break-even (exclusive the abovementioned donation) but all recognize the need to generate an increase in income from 2024.

Our current estimate includes an income of around £150 from our share of the pavilion hire in 2023, and the ringfenced amount of £608 held for the 10K, both of which look reasonable.

INCOME SUMMARY 2023 (£)

	YTD			2023	Total
	Regular	Annual	One-off	To Pursue	F'cast
Pavilion	303.88			150	453.88
Reg. clubs	406.00				406.00
Boot camp				100	100.00
Italian night		348.62			348.62
Donations			5011.22		5011.22
R'fence 23					0.00
WW 10K 23		608.11			608.11
<u>Total</u>	709.88	956.73	5011.22	250	6927.33

COSTS TO COVER

50% Pav	(626.45)				(626.45)
Field Maint.	(1035.00)				(1035.00)
AGM		(154)			(154)
<u>Total</u>	(1661.45)	(154)			(1815.45)
<u>NET</u>	(951.58)	802.73	5011.22	250.00	5112.37
Less r'fence		(608.11)			(608.11)
	(951.58)	194.62	5011.22	250.00	4504.26

Thus, to break even at the pavilion would require an additional £650 income.

Estimated income for the 2024 10K, to be shared between the three Wellow parties currently stands at £3000.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

PG explained that the theatre fund may also cover a field film night being considered for 2024, subject to approval by the Parish Council expected at the PC meeting on 6th November.

PG acknowledged that in the absence of further growth in activity/income on the field, our share of pavilion costs is an unsustainable burden on our finances. Nonetheless, an attempt at renegotiation of these costs with WVT should be a secondary resort to our efforts to raise the above activity/income. WVT raised the majority of original funding for the pavilion, which was subsequently assigned to joint WRC/WVT ownership by the Parish Council – a good deal at the time, further supported by WVT contributions to electricity cost and field maintenance. Further WVT subsidy may be negatively influenced by their need for a capital injection in floodlights and court resurfacing due in 2023/24.

Follow-up actions include chasing the annual contribution due from Sarah (boot camp) which has yet to be paid, and is a reasonable charge for sessions held twice per week at a cost of £7-8 per person.

PG feels that we need to ramp up our efforts to attract corporate and social club groups to pavilion hire. Tim has completed a great flyer, and the team is now concentrating on establishing a network to drive the effort forward. Lisa encouraged all to devote some time to developing a set of contacts to pursue, in addition to placing a slot on e.g. the Mums In Bath site. Children's parties are also to be welcomed but involve quite a lot of weekend effort for small returns. Corporate "away days" or a flexible annual "hours driven" contract represent the best options, with a potential option of refreshments from The Rider's Rest.

Sophie noted that a busier pavilion hire programme will require additional volunteer resources in cleaning/clear-up duties. PG felt that some could step up to this task (including PG & SG), preferably on weekdays.

ACTIONS FROM 23rd AUGUST MEETING (WITH SUBSEQUENT UPDATES)

DEVELOP PARISH POST ADVERT TO ATTRACT NEW TRUSTEES

PG commented that this initiative had been a great success, together with social media interaction, such that Maggie and Alice have now joined Wellow Recreation. We still await the assignment of a serving Parish Councillor to attend Wellow Rec trustee meetings but this has been hindered by the current low count of councillors. In the interim, PG provides a Wellow Rec report to the Council on a quarterly basis and liaises regularly with Mike Clarkson.

ST JULIAN'S SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

PG sought assurance that the crucial partnership with St Julian's school remains strong and has potential to grow further. Sophie provided that reassurance, and further commented that the replacement of the children's football coach (Premier Sports) has been a positive development. We will maintain close contacts with Mrs Parker in particular, and will continue to explore new opportunities.

PG/Sophie will follow up opportunities with Rugby Tots.

FOOTBALL FOUNDATION FOLLOW-UP

PG reported that a meeting had been held with Green Sward, our field maintenance contractor, who has experience of navigating the tortuous process of football pitch assessment/grant application. PG has received useful guidance from Somerset FA and Pitch Power (among others).

PG FOOTNOTE: Since our trustee meeting, a pitch inspection has revealed a better surface condition than at any time in recent years – a combination of weather conditions, improved maintenance and ironically, limited use. Mike Clarkson and PG advise to defer grant application to spring/summer, at which time a further inspection should be carried out. We feel that a short term application is likely to be unsuccessful, and that other Wellow Rec objectives should be given a higher priority. Importantly, we now have a good understanding of the process to be followed, and a group of relevant contacts to kickstart a future application.

FILM SHOW PROJECT

As previously mentioned, PG proposed to seek Parish Council permission to further investigate the option of an outdoor “pop-up screen” film show, probably linked to the 2024 Village Show and marquee availability. PC permission is sought due to sensitivities around late night sound and light disturbance to local residents.

PG FOOTNOTE: The PC granted permission to move forward with the project at its meeting on 6th November. However, it now seems likely that the much loved Miracle Theatre is prepared to add Wellow to its tour for a mid July production. It will stretch our resources to stage both film and theatre shows in 2024, on top of village show administration. Also for consideration is that both events are at high risk of financial loss associated with inclement weather. PG proposes to prioritize the theatre production for 2024, and to defer the film project for the time being. Do let me know if you have a different view.

LAUNCH OF PAVILION PROMOTION PROGRAMME

Further to earlier comments on this subject, Tim noted that we now have a good distribution list platform from the 10K work. Among other organizations to follow up, PG agreed to revisit with John Luck NHS/Sulis options. Sophie

may have some ideas re local law firms. Lisa will develop Instagram “round-ups” and explore opportunities with local publications. We all need to help Lisa with a “brain dump” of contacts/options. This remains a priority project to sustain our financial health.

VILLAGE SHOW

PG reported that after a somewhat fractious start between parties – mea culpa from PG – constructive meetings have been held between PG/TG and Hortsoc (Liz Hunt/Hugh Grant) to set out roles and responsibilities. PG has worked with Hugh to define policy and procedures for distribution of proceeds, of which a part will be paid to Wellow Recreation as an annual service charge. The Show Team will run the show as an independent organization, with Wellow Rec to take direct responsibility only for financial probity and administration via the Wellow Rec bank account. To enable Wellow Rec to fulfil its role effectively, TG will try to attend at least some show team meetings, together with Sophie, who is a show team member.

PG has requested that the show team elect a chair (permanent or rolling) to facilitate communications, and to work with PG in resolving any issues in a timely manner.

Many thanks to TG for arranging transfer of financial records and processes so that we can hit the ground running. At the time of writing, we are still awaiting Hugh’s action to secure agreement on key matters of proceeds administration.

Wellow Rec will receive approximately £1000 from the proceeds of the 2023 show to act as a sinking fund for the risk associated with future shows. Other proceeds were allocated to Julian House (£250), Bath City Farm (£250), Wellow Community Bus (£1000).

Hortsoc will transfer £3000 to cover the administrative cost of up-front expenses required prior to the 2024 show.

10K TEAM/KICK-OFF

The 10K event for 2024 is well underway, with TG carrying out sterling work to secure licences and insurance for the event, and Tim, Lisa and others

working wonders in setting out ticketing and marketing promotion for an event which will carry broad appeal to adults and children.

The 2024 format will comprise 5K and 10K runs, supplemented by a cplour run using biodegradable cornflour. Tickets will cost £15 for adults, £8 for 16-18 year olds and £3 for the colour run. We're targeting 450 entries and at the time of writing, we have secured licences and insurance.

Some Valley will once again to do the Sausage Sizzle and the PTA will take charge of teas.

Lucy P will lead the volunteer effort.

The Parish Council has agreed to reimburse licence and insurance costs for the event, estimated to exceed £300.

ACTIVITY/INCOME

The trustees discussed a number of options to boost activity and income for Wellow Rec.

Sophie and PG will follow up opportunities for a spin-off Rugby Tots group in Wellow. Tim and Sophie noted that in this context, the availability of pavilion shelter and toilets should make it an attractive site. If promising, we'll liaise further with St Julian's as part of our ongoing programme.

We returned to the subject of the adult gym, noting that although little used, there is likely to be a considerable cost to remove it. The Scandi gym suggested by Andy Smith was felt to be interesting but we doubted the level of sustained interest to justify the capital expense and grant support. Nonetheless, it was noted that interest abroad has been significant, so perhaps we should simply consider as a lower priority for the moment.

Padel was considered due to strong demand but the capital cost is probably too high – even as a joint venture with WVT. WVT has some concerns about a transfer of interest and loyalty from tennis to Padel but this could perhaps be managed if the WVT shifted from a tennis club to a broader racquets facility with a unified subscription.

Pickle Ball is more interesting inasmuch as it can be played on existing tennis courts with temporary markings. Pickle Ball is a hugely popular family game in the U.S., and is getting a lot of attention in the U.K. too.

Table tennis might be worth a revisit following interest shown by some members of the community. Opinion seems to be that the indoor space offered by the pavilion is too small. PG had been sceptical about outdoor table tennis due to exposure of the field to wind. However, a recent tip may have the logical answer: It's possible to buy a heavier ball! PG to follow up.

As an adjunct to the above, we also discussed the option for revisiting the option of pavilion use as a café/ice cream seller during peak months. The obstacle might be volunteer availability but in principle, this could add to the attraction of the venue, as well as adding valuable income for Wellow Recreation and the Parlour shop.

PG FOOTNOTE: PG has concluded – following a number of conversations in the Fox and Badger – that too few residents know and understand the part that Wellow Rec plays in promoting sport and recreation for the community, in spite of frequent communications in the Parish Post, and at AGM and Parish Council meetings. PG suggests that we produce a short flyer to be delivered by hand and electronically – TG suggested Survey Monkey – and to attach a short survey in which we ask parishioners to help prioritize our efforts. Comments/suggestions welcome but PG will produce a draft.

DONATION REPORT

During the summer Emma Rose made generous donations to a number of good causes in Wellow, as directed by her late father in his will. Of these beneficiaries, Wellow Recreation is the only registered charity. This in turn has implications for the tax treatment applied to the various entities, not least The Parlour Shop which received a £40,000 bequest and could become liable for corporation tax.

The Parlour Shop sought expert pro bono advice to determine whether Wellow Recreation could legitimately co-operate by the retention of Parlour Shop funds for an extended period allied to a “drip feed”. PG rejected such a proposal but welcomed any comments from other trustees in this regard.

In essence, the adoption of such a scheme would create a bloated Wellow Rec account of around £55,000 – around four times its normal cash value, without rational explanation.

While confident that the Parlour Shop would honour its settlement of any future tax liability, the real issue is potential exposure by The Charity Commission, and substantial reputational damage. In the worst instance, our CIO could be terminated.

There is a past precedent here in that Community Chest monies have also been channelled through the Wellow Rec bank account, but always for practical purposes and for a limited period of 7-10 days. In the instance of Emma's donation, Wellow Rec distributed all bequests were distributed from Wellow Recreation's bank to beneficiaries within 2 weeks of its receipt, with the sole exception of the Parlour Shop bequest. We agreed to defer the latter until the Parlour Shop had sought advice on legitimate mitigation of its corporate tax liability. At our 1st November trustee meeting, PG reported that no credible scheme had been presented by the Parlour Shop committee, and that Wellow Recreation could no longer justify retention of the bequest.

PG proposed that Wellow Recreation should make a bank transfer for the full amount of £40000 to the Parlour Shop by end November, and this was agreed.

PG FOOTNOTE: FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES, THIS PROCESS WAS DELAYED SLIGHTLY DUE TO DIFFICULTIES WITH THE CO-OP BANK BUT AT THE TIME OF WRITING, £20000 HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED, AND THE REMAINDER IS DUE FOR TRANSFER ON 8th NOVEMBER.

Sophie Hart & Peter Gaines 5th December 2023