

MINUTES OF LEISURE FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2023
AT MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Cllr C Pearce (Chairman)
Cllr R Fountain
Cllr T Head
Cllr E MacPherson
Cllr S Mitcham
Cllr A Whyte
Cllr M Williamson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)
Mr P Gibbons – Needingworth Colts.
There were no members of the public present.

18. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

None

19. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2022.

Resolved: That the minutes be signed as a true and correct record (Prop Cllr Williamson, 2nd Cllr Whyte) 5 in favour, 2 Abstentions.

20. Millfields:

- (i) To receive a report (in person) from Chairman Needingworth Colts.

Mr P Gibbons spoke to members on the following matters:

- Parking: since the last meeting with Council the Colts have arranged for a sign to be erected at the school gate advising of home team parking. They have also sent out a message to teams encouraging walking/cycling to the matches.
The problem on Saturday 18th February when the school gate was locked this was as a result of contractors having been on site. The club do have agreement that the gate will be open every week as required. Mr Gibbons will also look at fixtures and try to plan for peak days in advance. The club are still seeking a volunteer for car parking duties.
- Girls' teams: the club is looking into the Hunts FA Wild cats' scheme for girls between ages of 5-11 years. Launch would be subject to volunteers coming forward to run the group and Parish Council agreement that Millfields can be used on Sundays.
- Clerk asked if there was any update on the request for insurance cover for the tuck shop/cooking. Mr Gibbons replied that it is not covered on the colt's current policy but that this will be looked into. Cllr MacPherson expressed concerns that it was still possible to have accident with boiling water and grills and therefore cover must be sought.

Cllr Pearce asked if the club would be interested in improved catering facilities at Millfields, the reply was positive.

- (ii) To consider request from Needingworth Colts to move the defibrillator cabinet at Millfields.

Resolved: That the device stay in its current location (Prop Cllr MacPherson , 2nd Cllr Whyte) All in favour.

An invitation was extended to Needingworth Colts to attend the AED training to be held on Friday 24th February @ 7pm Needingworth village hall.

- (iii) To consider the Football Assessment Report from Pitch power.

The extensive report was reviewed and it was noted that the annual cost of works proposed was £20,000.

It was also commented on by Cllr Mitcham that the playing surface has deteriorated over many years.

The Chairman invited Mr Gibbons to speak. He advised that the football foundation will provide most of the funds over a 6-year period, £110,000.00 equating to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the amount required. The club are looking at obtaining the balance from HDC CIL but the proposal will require approval by all users of the site and the owners.

Resolved: That Needingworth Colts bring a proposal, including funding to Council for consideration. All in favour.

(iv) To consider request for reduced hire fees – Needingworth Cricket Club.

For transparency Cllr Mitcham asked that it be noted he is not on Needingworth Cricket Club committee however his son is.

Cllr Fountain spoke stating that the clubs request was, in his opinion outrageous. The club is already heavily subsidised, and the report provided shows no commitment from the club to fund raise. The Council would be setting a precedent if they support this request.

Cllr Whyte agreed with the point made on fund raising. He questioned if there is only 1 team instead of 2 if the facility would see less use.

Cllr Head supported the request for a fee reduction.

Cllr Mitcham advised that the club is struggling and that there will be no juniors this year. If the club can survive this season, it is hoped that it will be able to field 2 teams next year.

Resolved: That the request to reduce the hire fee for 2023 season to £400 be approved, ongoing the club are to be encouraged to fund raise. (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) 6 in favour. 1 Against

21. Overcote lane playground

(i) To consider the purchase of replacement “springer” for play area.

Clerk provided a report on the damaged springer.

All equipment in the under 12's play area is Wicksteed but prices from NGF play also provided.

It was agreed that the spring on the rocker bike is damaged and is a hazard.

Resolved: That a Ronni Rabbit springer be purchased from Wicksteed Cost £935 plus carriage and VAT. (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Macpherson) All in favour.

22. Items to report.

- Cllr Mitcham asked if the repair to play surface in under 12's area has been arranged. Clerk confirmed that the kit is in the office awaiting spell of good weather.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman.
Date