

**MINUTES OF LEISURE FACILITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 15th AUGUST 2023 AT
MILLFIELDS PAVILLION MILL WAY NEEDINGWORTH AT 7.45PM**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Miss J Bowd (Parish Clerk)

There were no members of the public present.

8. To Receive Apologies for Absence.

None

9. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2023.

Cllr Head was not present

Cllr Mortlock reported typo “sing” should read “sign”.

Resolved: That with the above amendments the minutes of 20th June 2023 be signed as a true and correct record (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Williamson) 6 in favour, 1 abstention.

10. Millfields

- (i) To approve pitch lay out Needingworth Colts 2023/24 season.

Clerk spoke to say that the groundsman had asked if the pitches could be moved just a few meters in either direction to prevent wear on the area of the goal mouths.

Resolved: That the pitch lay out for Needingworth Colts 2023/24 season be approved subject to the above request from groundsmen. (Prop Cllr Pearce, 2nd Cllr MacPherson) All in favour,

- (ii) To approve hire fees for 2023/24 season.

Clerk provided fees increased in line with RPI.

Cllr MacPherson felt that the rise of 10.7% was too high and that just because that was the rate of inflation it did not mean that Council had to increase prices by that amount.

Cllr Fountain felt that the hire costs were still relatively low and bore no resemblance to the cost of operating the facility.

Cllr Mitcham felt that there was a danger of the facility not being used due to the high costs of hire.

Cllr Whyte reported that some Parishes are not provided sports facilities due to high maintenance costs. He would also like to see clubs taking positive steps towards expenses by fundraising.

Resolved: That Millfields hire fees for 2023/24 season be approved see appendix A (Prop Fountain, 2nd) 4 in favour, 2 Against, 1 abstention. .

- (iii) To approve pitch fees for Needingworth Colts 2023/24 season.

Resolved: That the pitch fees of £1660.58 for Needingworth Colts 2023/24 season be approved (Prop Cllr Whyte, 2nd Cllr Pearce) All in favour,

- (iv) To approve access to Colts to permit pitch marking.

Resolved: That access to Millfields on 27th August for the Colts to permit pitch marking be approved. (Prop Cllr MacPherson, 2nd Cllr Mortlock) All in favour

- (v) To consider conditions of hire and requirements for operating of tuck bar.
Cllr Whyte asked that wording as proposed on point 43 be included
Resolved; that point 43 be included in terms of hire (Prop Cllr Whyte 2nd Cllr Williamson) All in favour.
Cllr Fountain asked that item 32 be amended to read "Pat tested"
Resolved: That item 32 be amended as proposed (Prop Cllr Fountain 2nd Cllr Williamson) All in favour,
Clerk advised that she has requested copy of insurance and also advised of Environmental health requirements for operating the tuck shop but as yet had not received a response. She asked for guidance on how to proceed if items requested are not received prior to the start of the season.
Resolved: That Council has discharged its duty by advising in writing of the club's responsibility and therefore the matter lies with them. (Prop Cllr Mitcham 2nd Cllr Mortlock) All in favour.
- (vi) To note correspondence relating to the locking of Millfields car park and agree actions.
A discussion took place, but it was felt that it was not feasible for Councillors to facilitate this.
Noted.

11. Overcote Lane

- (i) To consider request for use of the playing field for a commercial public family fun day.

Clerk provided an email advising that the request has been withdrawn.

12. Items to report.

- Cllr MacPherson felt that random locking of the gate at Millfields may be an option to deter anti-social behaviour.
- Cllr Mortlock mentioned that the showers were not working on Wednesday evening. Clerk confirmed that the contractor had been contacted on this matter.
- Cllr Pearce suggested that an extension to Millfields to add a kitchen should be added to a future agenda.
He also asked that the air lock in the water system be looked into.

Being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Chairman.

Date