

MINUTES OF THE ASHURST RECREATION GROUND TRUST AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7PM AT ASHURST VILLAGE HALL

Trustees Present: Cllr Hammond - Chairman
Cllrs Fischel, Jesse, and Russell.

Also Present: David Fischel – Chairman of Ashurst Cricket Club
Richard Moules – Partridge Green Football Club
One member of the public was also present

In attendance: Elizabeth Leggo – Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Knight (Ashurst Parish Council) Janet Williams (Head Teacher of Ashurst Primary School) and David Barling (West Sussex County Council).

2. Declaration of Members Interest

None for this meeting.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 2nd November 2017

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

4. Update on actions from the last AGM

- Car Parking
- Health & Safety: Legionnaires & Asbestos testing
- Roll & Harrow the Ground

It was noted that the Trust had acted on health & safety issues previously identified and had replaced the panes of non-safety glass with safety glass in the Cricket Pavilion. In addition, an asbestos check has been performed and a Legionnaire's inspection been carried out.

The Trustees also noted that the car park will be improved when West Sussex County Council remove the sewerage treatment plant which will increase capacity for parking.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Jesse for harrowing the Recreation Ground.

Actions

- Clerk to email TSS Facilities to ask for an itemized breakdown for the water safety maintenance, and to copy in Cllrs Fischel & Russell
- Cllrs Hammond & Russell to fix the climbing frame
- Clerk to order Wickstead Playground Inspection

5. Primary School Matters

CLlr Fischel passed on the thanks of Janet Williams, Head Teacher of Ashurst Primary School, for the ongoing use of this valuable resource.

6. Cricket Club Matters

David Fischel, Chairman of Ashurst Cricket Club, was present to update the Trustees on the Cricket Club. Mr Fischel's report is included in appendix 1 at the end of these minutes.

7. Football Club Matters

Richard Moules from Partridge Green Football Club (PGFC) was present to update the Trustees. Mr Moules thanked the Trustees for the invite and informed that PGFC had a successful year last year.

The first team had its best year in intermediate football, coming third in the championship, although the reserves team had not been as successful.

Mr Moules reported that Ashurst Recreation Ground is warmly welcomed by the players, because it is one of the only playable pitches in the area in wet weather as it drains so well.

8. Accounts

The Clerk circulated the Charity Commission Annual Return for 2017/18 to all Trustees. The income for the year was £3,760 and spending £3,051.

9. To review the contracts for use of the Recreation Ground

The draft contracts were reviewed, and the Clerk was asked to make some amendments.

10. To review rent for use of the Recreation Ground

The Clerk was asked to make the amendments to the contracts and the rents to be discussed and added to the Parish Council agenda in January 2019.

11. Questions from the floor

A member of the public attended and asked the Trustees whether they would be interested in a new toilet and sink for the John Eaton Hut. The Trustees responded that there is some consideration on upgrading both facilities at the site in the future and questioned the value of replacing individual components such as toilets.

12. Information Items

None for this meeting.

13. Date of next AGM

Thursday 7th November 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm.

Signed (Chairman) _____

Date _____

Appendix 1 – Report from David Fischel

Ashurst Cricket Club

Notes for the Ashurst Recreation Ground Trust AGM 1 November 2018

Overview

After a successful 2017 with eight victories and a draw out of 10 games, it was very disappointing that we only managed two games in 2018, including our annual charity game v. S. Duffett XI in aid of St Barnabas Hospice, and against Tillington, near Petworth. We also hosted one junior game for an Ashurst resident.

A number of games were cancelled by the opposition but we were also ourselves guilty of failing to produce a side on a number of occasions.

The progress of England to the football World Cup semi-finals keeping interest in football alive well into July was a definite distraction.

But, as pointed out in previous years, traditional Sunday village cricket across the county is suffering from a number of underlying challenges. Most notably that available players are predominantly either under 16 or over 40 with very little in-between because of family and other commitments. Regular cricketers in the in-between age bracket are generally playing league cricket on Saturdays and so not available on Sunday. Cancellations are rife and a number of village teams have actually closed (eg. Washington).

A lot of our good under 16s from previous years had progressed to taking A levels so became unavailable and, despite a theoretical list of over 20 potential players, the over 40s were not available in sufficient numbers to plug the gap.

We also suffered from Steyning CC playing an increased number of unscheduled games on Sundays, especially 20-20 matches.

Plans

Our plans for 2019 entail

- * A more limited fixture list of say five fixtures, unless we find sufficient player demand for more.
- * Identifying a new and younger group of officers (Captain, Fixtures Secretary, Groundsman etc).

We will also explore longer-term options

- * A more overt linkage with a larger club to provide a deeper and readier pool of players.
- * Youth cricket.
- * Women's cricket.

Ground and Pavilion

* The pitch played well on the limited occasions it was used. Rabbit invasion has been reduced as we replaced the fencing surrounding the square which had reached the end of its useful life.

* We appreciated generally good quality grass cutting from the external contractor.

* The cricket Pavilion was made available for the School on a number of occasions, for the Dog Show and other village events.

Financial

* Match fee income was minimal in 2018 so the rent of £800 and other outgoings (in particular, replacement fence and mower repair) were financed by the Chairman. The rent is clearly out of line with the Club's current reduced activities.

Thanks

* We would like to express our thanks to the trustees for the continued use of the ground, with its pleasant and tranquil setting.

* While some material issues need to be addressed, we look forward to further years of enjoyable cricket at Ashurst with additional local players and spectators always welcome.

David Fischel

Chairman

31 October 2018