

MINUTES OF THE ASHURST RECREATION GROUND TRUST AGM HELD ON THURSDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.15PM AT ASHURST VILLAGE HALL

Trustees Present:	Cllr Fischel - Chairman Cllrs Hedley & Jesse.
Also Present:	David Fischel – Chairman of Ashurst Cricket Club Richard Moules – Partridge Green Football Club
In attendance:	Elizabeth Leggo – Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None for this meeting.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 1st November 2018

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

4. Update on actions from the last AGM

- Wicksteed play inspection has been carried out and remedial works are underway – the climbing frame is being repaired and the cradle swing has been replaced;
- The Trust has put in place measures that it believes satisfy health and safety requirements at the Recreation Ground, including water testing for Legionella;
- The Trust had agreed last year not to replace the toilet at the John Eaton Hut and the sink at the Cricket Pavilion.

5. Primary School Matters

The Clerk passed on the thanks of Janet Williams, Head Teacher of Ashurst Primary School, for the ongoing use of this valuable resource, which she said is so 'greatly appreciated and well used'. The lease for the use of the Ground is currently being reviewed by the School Governors.

6. Cricket Club Matters

David Fischel, Chairman of Ashurst Cricket Club, was present to update the Trustees on the Cricket Club. Mr Fischel reported that there had been no significant updates since the Annual Parish Meeting (included in appendix 1 for information).

There has not been an upsurge in interest to make a cricket team, although there were three matches played this summer, including a charity match and a juniors' match. Mr Fischel said it is going to be very hard to revive traditional village cricket in Ashurst. Therefore, they are considering contacting a larger local club to see if there is any interest in making use of the Ground. The Trustees agreed that this was a good plan to research over the winter.

Mr Fischel agreed that he would look into the relocation of the grass roller from a health & safety point of view as children sometimes play on it after school hours.

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 advised that PGFC did not have any updates since

the Annual Parish Meeting in May (included in Appendix 2 for information). The Club will be replacing the goal posts this year and taking away the old ones.

The Chairman informed Mr Moules that the Clerk would send the new lease to the Club in the next week, once the Trust has reviewed the draft at the next Council meeting. Mr Moules was reminded that games can only be played between 1st October and 31st March.

Mr Moules asked if a sign could be put up as a reminder to run the water in the John Eaton Hut on arrival at the Club. He had asked his fellow team members to leave the Hut rubbish free.

8. Update on contracts for use of Ground

- Ashurst Cricket Club has signed the lease
- Partridge Green Football Club will receive a copy of the lease in the next week for signing
- Ashurst Primary School's Chair of the Governors still has the lease and this is yet to be signed. The Chairman agreed that she would chase this again.

9. Accounts

The Clerk circulated the Charity Commission Annual Return for 2018/19 to all Trustees. The income for the year was £3,786 and spending £4,466. A summary of the submissions made to the Charity Commission for the last three financial years are shown below.

Financial year end (FYE)	Income	Spending	Accounts received	Annual Return/Annual Update received
31 Mar 2019	£3,786	£4,466	Not Required	23 Apr 2019 **
31 Mar 2018	£3,760	£3,051	Not Required	01 Oct 2018 **
31 Mar 2017	£4,710	£3,087	Not Required	25 Sep 2017 **

Income was received from Ashurst Primary School, Ashurst Cricket Club, Partridge Green Football Club and Ashurst Parish Council. The principal item of expenditure was the grass cutting at nearly £2,500, the play equipment inspections at approximately £230. Water and electricity came to approximately £600 and the Trust also spent £425 on upgrading the glass at the Cricket Pavilion.

- 10. To agree on the specification for the grass cutting contract for 2020-2022 before going to tender**
It was agreed that the tender would be amended to weekly for April, May and June with fortnightly from July to October, i.e. a total of 20 cuts with an option for additional cuts if these are necessary.

11. Questions from the floor

None for this meeting.

12. Any other business

None for this meeting.

13. Date of next AGM

Thursday 3rd September 2020.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed (Chairman) _____ Date _____

Appendix 1 – Report from David Fischel as given at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2019

David Fischel, Chairman of Ashurst Cricket Club was present and gave the following report:

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.

Appendix 2 – Report from Richard Moules as given at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2019

Richard Moules, Chairman of PGFC, gave his apologies but asked the Clerk to give the following report:

The 2018/19 season has just been completed. The season has been a very difficult year for both the 1st XI and 2nd XI. The 1st XI finishing bottom of the championship, and 2nd XI 7th (out of 9) in Div 5 north. However, some comfort taken from the fact that we have never struggled to field to sides and, with all the youngsters coming through, the future looks bright. The Winter was very kind weather-wise, but still a period where the park in Partridge Green was unplayable, hence having the Rec proving beneficial once more. Completion of this season brings the FC and Rec Committee to the end of the 3 year agreement. My thanks to Liz and the committee in agreeing to an annual agreement for 2019/20, bringing the FC in line with the Cricket Club and school and my general thanks to the support shown by the committee to keep the Rec being used for football. As always, we are looking for new players for the forth-coming season, so if any of the parishioners are interested in playing, please drop me a line (Liz has my email). Apologies again I can't be at the meeting, hope it all goes well. Richard (Moules) Hon Treasurer - PGFC.