THE FRANK MONTGOMERY PLAYING FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 6.00PM IN WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX

Present: Linda Lodge
Caroline Rees (C.Rees)
Charles Rees (Ch. Rees)
Elizabeth Stewart

Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Secretary

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
L. Lodge welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mary (Other Commitments). L. Lodge wished to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the clear up of the nature area.

2. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 10 JULY 2024**
The Minutes of the last meeting, which was the Annual General Meeting, held on 10 July 2024 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
8 – C. Rees reported that a date has not been set for the Primary School 'colour run' event yet, but an application has been received and approved by the Committee in the interim period.

4. **BASKETBALL HOOP**
C. Rees reported that she has received two quotations to date and is waiting on a third quotation. A site survey has been carried out by a potential contractor who recommended the most suitable location would be at the far end of the playing field, away from the existing equipment. They suggested a position where the equipment would be away from the neighbouring property fences to minimise disruption and far enough away from the road for safety reasons. There will be no hardstanding area to minimise noise disruption to neighbouring residents from balls bouncing. No decisions on location have been made. Once the third quotation has been received, the Committee will go out to consultation with neighbouring residents and the wider community.

5. **CLASSIC CAR SHOW**
C. Rees confirmed that the date for the Classic Car Show will be held on Sunday 18 May 2025 from 11am to 4pm. All proceeds from the event will be used towards new equipment for the playing field. St Andrew's Church (including Stodmarsh and Ickham churchs) and the Primary School have been invited to have stalls for their own fundraising purposes. Wristbands will be used this time for better monitoring of participants, staff/volunteers and visitors. The booking form has been updated and Peter Collinson is designing a poster for consideration.

For access to water and electricity, stalls will likely be positioned nearest the residential properties and neighbours asked if they would be willing to allow stall holders to connect to their supply if required. Initial enquiries are being made whether it's possible to have permanent utility connections in the playing field for use at events, which would be locked away when not in use.

C. Rees also reported that the local landowner for the field opposite the playing field has given permission for a dog show to be held during the Classic Car Show. The landowner will ensure that a section of the field will be mowed in preparation.

Further meetings will be arranged in the interim period to finalise arrangements. E. Stewart agreed to assist with collating historical information for a 40th Anniversary display, and L. Lodge agreed to draft letters asking for raffle prize donations.

6. **NATURE AREA**

Whilst volunteer working groups have been used in the past to maintain the nature area, a long-term solution needs to be agreed to ensure this is managed as required. C. Rees reported that Majestic Garden Care will be providing quotations for consideration. A letter will also be delivered to all residents bordering the playing field to remind them of the need to keep vegetation from the gardens cut back. C. Howard-Sparkes agreed to draft a letter.

7. **CLEANING PLAY EQUIPMENT**

C. Howard-Sparkes has approached 4no local companies to quote for cleaning and treating all the play equipment and benches in the playing field. By cleaning the moss and re-treating the timber play equipment and benches, this should assist the longevity of the assets. The Committee were unanimously in agreement to undertake the cleaning and treatment of the play equipment and benches.

C. Howard-Sparkes and C. Rees have met two companies at the playing field, and the other two companies have indicated they will provide a quotation without the need for a site visit. Quotations will be presented to the Parish Council for consideration once received.

8. **EVENTS 2024-2025**

No events planned except the Classic Car Show discussed under Item 05 above.

9. **FINANCE**

The current bank balance as at 11 September 2024 is £7,238.85, including £500.00 from the Four Villages Post Office and Shop (4VPOS) towards the replacement balance beams.

C. Rees reported that the Committee has received a very generous donation of £2,000 towards obtaining raffle prizes for the Classic Car Show from a member of the public.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) C. Rees reported that a section of fencing in private ownership adjacent to the public footpath running from The List to Seaton Road was in poor state of repair and has had to be replaced with temporary fencing. The entire stretch of fencing will need to be replaced, and C. Rees recommended the landowner apply to KCC to temporarily shut the footpath to enable the works to be carried out as efficiently and safely as possible. The Committee had no objections to a temporary closure of the footpath.

(ii) C. Rees reported that the adjacent landowner has agreed to make sure vegetation is kept cut back from the boundary (brambles, nettles, etc).

(iii) C. Rees reported that a complaint was received from a member of the public that somebody was practicing golf in the playing field, despite children using the play equipment. C. Rees contacted the person playing golf to ask them to cease and they have since apologised.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Committee meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 6pm, subject to the Village Hall being available.

An informal meeting was also scheduled for Wednesday 30 October 2024 to discuss Classic Car Show arrangements.

The meeting closed at 7.14pm

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....