THE FRANK MONTGOMERY PLAYING FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2019 AT 7.30PM IN WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX

Present: Linda Lodge
Caroline Rees
Michael Keeler-Walker
Kat Trotter
Elizabeth Stewart

Miss Chenice Sparkes, Clerk

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

L. Lodge reported that the previous meeting scheduled for 23 January 2019 was cancelled due to the snow and icy conditions, which would have made it difficult for the Clerk and other members of the committee to attend.

L. Lodge reported that Charlotte Stewart has resigned from the Committee due to family and work commitments. Charlotte Stewart expressed that she would be happy to assist with fundraising events in the future but cannot commit to regular meetings.

L. Lodge reported that unfortunately one of the residents bordering the playing field, Ros Collinson, passed away last year. The Committee wished to record their condolences to her family and friends and C. Rees reported that she and the Clerk attended the funeral.

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Fiona Dawson, Marina Dunlop and Lisa Crosbie.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Item 3 – CCTV

C. Rees reported that on 01 November 2018 she and L. Lodge met with David Harte from Canterbury City Council to undertake a survey to discuss potentially installing either temporary or permanent CCTV at the playing field. Following this survey, it has been established that it will not be possible to install CCTV as the playing field does not meet the criteria – the amount of crime or anti-social behaviour is too low for temporary CCTV and criteria to be in accordance with the legislation around human rights, Surveillance Camera Commissioner or the Information Commissioners Office for permanent CCTV has not been met. It would also cost in the region of £7,000 to install permanent CCTV. C. Rees reported that David Harte has left some graffiti removal wipes at Canterbury City Council, which she will collect in due course, and has offered to re-skin signage when required.

Item 6 – Working Party

C. Rees reported that Kent County Council will not allow a working party to level the footpath from Seaton Road to The List due to insurance implications. However, a temporary repair has been undertaken around the drain at the start of the footpath on 25 March 2019 and C. Rees reported that she is chasing for a date for a more permanent repair to be undertaken.

Item 8(i) – Any Other Business

The Clerk reported that she contacted the resident who raised the suggestion for adult gym equipment to be installed on the playing field to request more information. The resident was reluctant to undertake too much research into the project without the Committee agreeing to proceed but a message was put out on the village message board to canvas resident's views to gauge whether the proposal would be supported. Only one resident contacted the Clerk following this to say they supported the proposal.

The Committee unanimously decided not to proceed with investigating the possibility of installing adult gym equipment at this time but would consider revisiting this proposal should there be enough interest in the future.

4. **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR / NOISE NUISANCE**

L. Lodge reported that no complaints of anti-social behaviour have been received since the last meeting, although the weather has been poor recently so use of the playing field will have been limited.

C. Rees reported that she received an email yesterday (12 March 2019) from residents in one property bordering the playing field reporting instances of anti-social behaviour that occurred last summer. These included children urinating up their fence, stones being thrown at their cat and people congregating at night to drink. C. Rees has responded to the residents and provided her contact details should any further incidents occur. Signage installed since the incidents requesting users of the playing field leave at dusk and the removal of the picnic bench previously used by drinkers will hopefully have an impact going forward.

L. Lodge reported that the two boxes left in the playing field containing crayons, pencils and paper in one and second hand reading books in the other, have been removed due to the poor weather. New sturdier, waterproof boxes will be sourced and these will be reinstated when the weather improves to continue to promote quiet play.

5. **REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT RULES**

L. Lodge clarified that Furley Page Solicitors have advised that updating of the deed and management rules can be carried out at a meeting of the Playing Field Committee by resolution.

No changes can be made at this meeting under Item 9 of the Management Rules, which requests that written notice of any proposed addition, deletion or amendment be submitted to the Secretary not less than two weeks prior to the meeting. The Management Rules were however discussed and it was unanimously agreed to put forward the following two amendments for approval at the next meeting:

(i) That Item 6 relating to the appointment of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary from amongst members be amended to allow the appointment of the Clerk of the Parish Council, who is not a member, to the position of Secretary should the Committee choose to not appoint a member.

(ii) That Item 9 relating to making changes to the Management Rules be amended to allow changes to be made by resolution at a Committee meeting should an agenda item be published, rather than requiring written notification of proposed changes prior to the meeting.

M. Keeler-Walker queried whether an additional rule should be added limiting the number of committee members who are not residents of the parish, as the current rules do not state that somebody can't be elected from outside of the immediate area. C. Rees reported that committee members are elected by the residents of the parish at the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council every year, which safeguards from too many members being appointed by the Committee itself during the year.

Any decisions relating to major financial investment/changes as well as any change of use would also have to be approved by the Parish Council, who are the owners of the land. The Committee can only make decisions relating to the management of the playing field. This would restrict non-local Committee members from coming onto the Committee and making any changes to the detriment of the local community. It was therefore unanimously agreed not to make any additional rules restricting the number of Committee members from outside of the parish at this time.

6. **NATURE AREA**

C. Rees reported that she and L. Lodge commenced the nature area in the half term and have been busy planting and installing a willow dome. Although it was the Committee's intention to deliver an informative leaflet to all residents bordering the playing field before works commenced, the willow dome was delivered quicker than expected and this needed to be planted and constructed quickly before the end of March. L. Lodge circulated a draft informative leaflet explaining the plans for the nature area for approval to Committee members which was unanimously agreed.

An email was sent to C. Rees requesting information on the plans for the nature area from a neighbouring property following work commencing which C. Rees has responded to in full.

The improvements to the nature area, in particular the willow dome, are primarily intended to provide a quiet retreat for children who are adverse to noise and the close proximity of others. The rest of the area will be designed as a wildlife haven and sensory garden to further promote the idea of tranquillity, with nest boxes, log piles and bug hotels ready to install in the spring. Signage will also be installed to remind visitors that this is a quiet area and smoking is not permitted.

Input from residents to the project, including offers of assistance or suggestions for suitable plants, etc, is encouraged.

The Committee wished to thank C. Rees, L. Lodge and Steve Rees for giving their time to plant and construct the willow dome, which has saved £500.00 in installation costs, and for general gardening carried out to neaten the area.

7. **FUNDRAISING**

C. Rees reported that she is no longer in a position to organize and run the Classic Car Show this year on 19 May 2019 due to work and personal commitments. Due to the lack of people available to assist with the preparation and on-the-day running of the event, it was unanimously agreed to postpone the Classic Car Show until 2020 to ensure that health and safety obligations are met.

It was agreed that preparation for the Classic Car Show be progressed late 2019 to ensure roles and responsibilities are delegated and shared well in advance. It was unanimously agreed to recommend a new date of Sunday 17 May 2020 to the Parish Council for approval.

L. Lodge reported that the Committee will be applying for funding from the Four Villages Post Office and Shop fund towards the nature area.

8. **FINANCE**

C. Rees confirmed that the current bank balance is £2,158.52

C. Rees requested permission to submit an invoice for payment before the next meeting to cover expenses in relation to the nature area including the willow dome, plants, bird boxes, bug houses, etc. The Committee unanimously agreed to defer approval of the invoice by email once submitted.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) M. Keeler-Walker enquired whether it would be beneficial for the School to have the playing field marked up for sports, such as a rounders pitch or 100m lanes for racing, during the summer months. L. Lodge agreed to contact the School and also agreed to look into the possibility of obtaining temporary or permanent football goal posts.

(ii) The Clerk requested that all Committee members consider whether they wish to stand again for re-election at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April 2019.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....