THE FRANK MONTGOMERY PLAYING FIELD TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2019 AT 7.30PM IN WICKHAMBREAUX PRIMARY SCHOOL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX

Present: Linda Lodge
Caroline Rees
Kat Trotter
Elizabeth Stewart
Brian Wilkinson (left at 8.26pm)

Parish Cllr Robin Treacher
Lisa Crosbie

Mrs Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Secretary

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Fiona Dawson (Other Commitments)

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2019-2020**
C. Rees nominated L. Lodge for the role of Chairman. E. Stewart seconded that L. Lodge be elected for the year 2019-2020 and this was unanimously passed.

3. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2019-2020**
L. Lodge nominated C. Rees for the role of Vice-Chairman. E. Stewart seconded that C. Rees be elected for the year 2019-2020 and this was unanimously passed.

4. **ELECTION OF TREASURER FOR 2019-2020**
L. Lodge nominated C. Rees for the role of Treasurer. K. Trotter seconded that C. Rees be elected for the year 2019-2020 and this was unanimously passed.

5. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY FOR 2019-2020**
L. Lodge nominated C. Howard-Sparkes for the role of Secretary. C. Rees seconded that C. Howard-Sparkes be elected for the year 2019-2020 and this was unanimously passed.

6. **CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**
No new nominations have been received. As Lisa Crosbie has stepped down from the Committee, it was agreed that F. Dawson be nominated as the School Liaison representative.

7. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MARCH 2019**
The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

8. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
L. Lodge reported that Marina Dunlop has resigned from the Committee due to personal commitments and Michael Keeler-Walker has stepped down from the Committee as he is due to move out of the parish shortly. L. Lodge wished to thank both members for all their hard work on the Committee.

Item 4 – Anti-social Behaviour / Noise Nuisance
L. Lodge reported that she spoke to the residents who sent an email complaint regarding incidents of anti-social behaviour and they are content with the response. L. Lodge also reported that two studier boxes for books and colouring materials have been purchased and will be left in the play area when the summer holidays start.

L. Lodge reported that there have been no further reports of anti-social behaviour and compared to other areas, there are very little incidents.

Item 6 – Nature Area

L. Lodge reported that an ash tree on the playing field had to be removed and the chippings from the tree were spread in the nature area by Charlie Savin. Two residents have offered to donate some rowan trees in the autumn and offer advice on suitable hedging for the nature area. John Joice has also offered to assist with the nature area and donate plants. Wildlife boxes will also be installed in due course for birds/owls/bugs.

L. Lodge reported that a resident has reported children climbing a tree in the nature area with concerns over their safety. L. Lodge reported that she has responded to the resident and installed temporary signage to ask children not to climb the trees and remind everyone it is a quiet area. The log pile that was being used to climb the adjacent fence has also been dismantled to deter children from climbing the fence and trees.

Item 9 – Any Other Business

Lisa Crosbie reported that the School do not require the playing field marked for sports, they are happy with the current arrangement using plastic cones.

L. Lodge reported that she has not investigated further the possibility of obtaining temporary or permanent football goal posts on the playing field and it was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

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

B. Wilkinson reported that irresponsible dog owners leaving dog mess on the playing field is increasingly becoming a problem. Lisa Crosbie confirmed that the School have also noticed a rise in the amount of dog mess on the playing field.

C. Rees reported that the possibility of banning dogs from the playing field has been investigated before and it was established that the Committee would need to apply for a by-law. C. Rees suggested that confronting irresponsible dog owners would be the most effective solution but as the playing field is not manned all the time, it is difficult to catch owners in the act. Lisa Crosbie reported that the School have on occasion confronted dog owners when they have not cleared up after their dogs.

The possibility of installing dog bins was previously investigated but Serco do not issue designated dog bins now as normal litter bins can be used for dog waste. As not all dog owners are aware of this, C. Rees suggested putting stickers on the two litter bins to clarify that dog mess can be put in those bins. This was unanimously agreed and C. Rees agreed to apply the stickers.

L. Lodge also reported that the signs reminding dog owners to keep their dogs on the lead are currently being re-plated and C. Rees agreed to chase for an update. These signs will be fitted on both entrance gates once re-plated.

10. **EQUIPMENT CHECKS ROTA**

C. Rees reported that informal checks are being undertaken but these are not being officially recorded. It was agreed to circulate available weeks via email after the meeting to set up an official rota of all Committee members. L. Lodge wished to thank the School for undertaking informal checks before the children use the equipment and Lisa Crosbie confirmed that the School would be happy to undertake a formal check as part of the rota during term time in the summer.

C. Rees also reported that a resident has been in contact to report a bolt has sheared off the zip wire. C. Rees reported that she inspected the zip wire today and determined it safe to use, however she will arrange for an engineer to come out and fix as necessary. The Parish Council will pay for the repair as it is maintenance of equipment. L. Lodge reported that she contacted the resident to thank them for reporting the sheared bolt.

C. Rees agreed to put an article in Church and Village and a notice in the noticeboard encouraging residents to report faults or concern with the play equipment should they come across any issues.

11. **EVENTS 2019/2020**

C. Rees reported that since the last meeting, the only event that has been held on the playing field is the School Sports Day which took place on 23 May 2019. An additional grass cut was scheduled in advance of this date with permission of the Parish Council.

C. Rees reported that the Parish Council agreed to hold the Classic Car Show on Sunday 17 May 2020, as previously recommended by the Committee. C. Rees reported that the first joint meeting between members of the Committee and the Church took place on 15 July 2019 to assign roles and responsibilities on the lead up to the event and on the day. A donation box will be left in the Church for raffle prizes and an article will be placed in Church and Village asking for donations of plants or other prizes for the raffle. The local farmer for the field adjacent to the playing field will also be approached to enquire whether the field can be used for parking.

Cllr Treacher recommended that the Classic Car Show is advertised as soon as possible and it is made clear what the money will be spent on. Previously the money raised was used towards new equipment and the Committee unanimously agreed to put future funds towards improvements in facilities.

E. Stewart suggested a scarecrow competition event for next year, similar to the ones held by Wingham and Adisham. A fee could be charged to anyone wishing to exhibit and an entrance fee could be charged to visitors to view the scarecrows. The winner of the competition would be determined by members of the public visiting and voting on the day. L. Lodge suggested offering refreshments and having a number of stalls to help draw in visitors. The Committee unanimously supported the suggestion and it was agreed to put this on the next agenda for further discussion.

C. Rees suggested that the scarecrow competition be a joint initiative with the School, with all funds raised split 50/50 between both parties. Pupils could be involved in voting for their favourite as well as given the opportunity to submit entries. The Committee were unanimously in favour of a joint initiative with the School and Lisa Crosbie agreed to raise this at the next staff meeting and enquire about possible dates. Lisa Crosbie reported that due to term-time commitments, the event would need to be held before May.

12. **FINANCE**

C. Rees confirmed that the current bank balance is £1,635.75, including the recent reimbursement of expenses associated with the nature area and the website domain for the classic car show amounting to £522.77.

L. Lodge reported that an application has been submitted to the Four Villages Post Office and Shop for £500.00 for funding towards signage to remind visitors that the nature area is for quiet play and for additional plants, shrubs and screening.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) B. Wilkinson reported that brambles are encroaching on the footpath from The List to the playing field which are becoming a hazard. C. Rees confirmed that the overgrown brambles are Kent County Council's responsibility but the footpath is only scheduled to be cut once a year. Tim Butler who cuts the grass has cut back the brambles on occasions as a gesture of goodwill. C. Rees suggested that the Committee cut back the brambles and other vegetation as and when it needs maintaining via a working party.

(ii) Cllr Treacher enquired whether the Committee has considered installing a public toilet on the playing field. A lot of public toilets are now self-opening and self-locking at scheduled times so would involve minimal involvement of the Committee. The

Committee agreed that it would be useful when events are being held in the village, not just on the playing field, and Lisa Crosbie confirmed it would be useful for the School as teachers would not need to take pupils back to the School when they need the toilet. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda for discussion and L. Lodge and C. Rees agreed to investigate further.

(iii) The next Committee meeting will be held on 06 November 2019 at 7.30pm, subject to the availability of the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.14pm

Signed……..... (Chairman)

Date…….....