

Bishop's Cleeve Parish Council

*Minutes of the Playing Fields Committee
Held at the Parish Office on 30th May 2000*

Present: Cllr. Mike Beresford
Cllr. Mrs Vera Ayres
Cllr. Peter Badham
Cllr. Mrs Pat Hatton
Cllr. Pat Rawlings
Cllr. Peter Richmond
Cllr. Tony Mackinnon (Late arrival)

The meeting commenced with Cllr. Mrs Vera Ayres in the Chair.

1. Apologies:

None received

2. Appointment of Chair.

Cllr. Beresford was nominated by Cllr Rawlings and seconded by Cllr. Mrs Pat Hatton. There being no other nominations Cllr. Beresford was duly elected and took the chair.

3. Renewal of Lease for Kayte Lane Playing Field.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Mackinnon joined the meeting.

The Chairman gave the background to the acquisition of this field and it's use and Cllr Badham proposed and Cllr. Mrs Pat Hatton seconded that the new rent of £150 per annum be accepted, and, whilst this was accepted, it was agreed that the Deputy Clerk be instructed to write to Gloucester County Council expressing concern at the state of the fence with the road and the two gates which had fallen into disrepair.

It was further agreed that the terms of the lease be accepted and that the deed be signed on behalf of the Council in due course by the Clerk to the Council Mr S. Holley and the Chair of the Council Cllr. Mrs V. Ayres.

4. To Consider Plans for the Cheltenham Road Playing Field in the Light of the Lottery Decision.

Cllr. Rawlings was disturbed that the lottery bid had been so comprehensively declined stating that it seemed to have failed on every aspect and that he felt that the consultants should be asked to attend a meeting of the Committee and discuss the Sport England Letter.

Cllr. Mrs Pat Hatton agreed adding that Strategic Leisure do not appear to have submitted a full report.

Cllr Richmond expressed similar concerns.

The Chairman reported that, following the receipt of Sport England's letter earlier in the day he had taken the following action:

- a) Faxed a copy of the letter to Sharon Bayton (Strategic Leisure) who had expressed their surprise at the result and had asked for 48 hours to consider the letter.
- b) Tried to contact our MP but unfortunately he is away until the week end on holiday, but a meeting will be arranged as soon as possible next week

The Chairman also reported that Strategic Leisure did indicate that, as regards Development Plans, these were not submitted as, at the time, there were no clubs formed for which development plans could be formulated. Strategic Leisure had also advised that the Council have 21 days in which to appeal but that, in their experience, this process was most unlikely to be successful.

After much discussion when Councillors expressed concern at the lack of sports facilities in Bishop's Cleeve the Committee asked the Chairman to contact Strategic Leisure again, no later than Friday 2nd June to arrange a meeting between themselves, this Committee, the Regional Lottery Advisor and the Chief Leisure Officer of Tewkesbury Borough Council. (the latter as the provision of this sport's field was an integral part of the Borough Council's leisure strategy for the area).

The Chairman, Cllr Beresford then suggested that a possible way forward as regards the bowls club was for them to submit their own lottery application supported by the Council. However, the general view was that we did not have the time and there was concern too as to how such a facility would be maintained, bearing in mind the high cost of ground maintenance etc.

Looking at alternative ways forward the Chairman indicated that he had been in contact with Grundons today to seek their reaction to supplying aggregates to enable the car park to be progressed. The response had not been negative, in that the Committee had been asked to advise Grundons of the quantities involved for the Company's consideration.

Additionally the Chairman had also tried to contact Bovis Homes to progress the scaled down version but holidays had prevented contact being made until next week.

Cllr. Beresford also advised the Committee that it should consider asking Tewkesbury Borough Council for a grant of £250,000 but Cllr. Richmond felt that this was premature and should wait until after the next meeting, but that, in the interim, the Committee should make arrangements to view the ex Bovis building on offer, if it was still available.

Cllr. Rawlings proposed and there was general agreement that, whilst the meeting with Strategic Leisure was being arranged the Council should commence talks with Tewkesbury Borough Council and arrange to view the building mentioned above.

The Chairman stated that all this had been put in hand by him earlier in the day.

Cllr Richmond proposes that the Committee recommend to the full Council that we commence development of the site by obtaining a quotation to build a proper access and car park and there was general agreement to this proposal.

Cllr. Mackinnon advised the Committee that Smiths Industries had a sectional building that it would be disposing of in the short term and he felt that the company would be well disposed to selling it to the Council cheaply.

Cllr Richmond raised the question of the continued investment of the funds on a monthly basis and wondered if a longer term should now be considered to possibly obtain a better return. However, it was felt that until the Committee know how to progress matters the present arrangements were preferable.

5. To Note.

5.1. The Chairman reported that he and the Deputy Clerk had met the Officer from Tewkesbury Borough Council responsible for the maintenance staff and he had readily conceded that the work had not been carried out in a satisfactory manner and that this would now be rectified.

A letter from Tewkesbury Borough Council setting out the various costs, already accepted by the Council was discussed and Cllr. Richmond asked if a Schedule of Works was available; to be advised by the Chairman that Tewkesbury Borough Council had been asked to prepare one.

Cllr. Richmond further proposed that we ask a representative from the Institute of Groundsmen to advise the Council on a consultancy basis with which Cllr. Badham concurred.

The Chairman will contact Tewkesbury Borough Council and GPFA (Don Perry) to obtain the name of a consultant who could give independent advice and produce a maintenance schedule

Whilst on the subject of maintenance generally Cllr Richmond asked what progress had been made with regard to the removal of the old Colts buildings. The Chairman confirmed that the club had been asked to move them in the short term.

5.2. Cllr. Richmond asked that it be recorded in the minutes that if the cricket square was not prepared by September 2000 cricket could not be played next year.

5.3. As regards the ditch to the south of the field Cllr. Richmond indicated that it was overgrown and needed cutting back and clearing out. He suggested that the Committee recommend to the Council that this work should now be organised.

6. Other Important Business at the Chairman's Discretion.

6.1. Cllr. Richmond raised the question of all the rubbish at the gates to the Sports Field and The Chairman undertook to speak again to Tewkesbury Borough Council as he had already asked them to clear this on two occasions already.

6.2. The Oxbutts Agricultural Services increase in charge in respect of the regular inspection of the existing playing fields contract from £20 to £25 was accepted by general consent as was the charge of £20 to inspect Kayte Lane Playing Field and the Sports Ground in Cheltenham Road.

6.3. The Deputy Clerk reported that Oxbutts Agricultural Services had accepted the need for a written report in respect of their inspections and had agreed the pro forma report form submitted to them.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m. with the date for the next meeting to be arranged in consultation with Strategic Leisure.

SIGNED

DATED THIS

DAY OF

2000