

Layham Road Sports Group Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting of held on Wednesday 9th September 2020
At 7pm at Hadleigh United Football Club

Present: Councillors Beggerow (Chair), Schleip, Talbot and Knock (via telephone conferencing)
Charlie Warburton (Hadleigh Rugby Club)
Geoff Scott (Tennis Club)
Tony Hayward (Hadleigh United FC)
Keith Marsden (Hadleigh Scouts Group Chairman)
Steve Cridland (Hadleigh Group Scout Leader)
James Pitcher (Hadleigh Sea Scouts Leader)
Alicja Barnes (Town Council Projects Officer)
Alan Munson (Town Council Services Officer)

Apologies: Councillors McLeod

WELCOME BY CHAIR

It was noted that the environment of the meeting was acceptable to all those present and the socially distanced and preventative measures in place in the football club were accepted by those present.

It was also noted that the meeting was being recorded via the telephone conference system and Cllr A Knock was attending through the line.

1. Introduce new Projects Manager

Alicja Barnes introduced as present as the new Projects Officer at the Town Council.
Round table introductions to all members of the Working Group present.

2. To approve and confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th March 2020 and to deal with any matters arising therefrom

Cllr Knock noted the telephone line was not always clear his end. Those present noted in the room it was clearly audible but in order for Cllr Knock to hear clearly the conference phone was moved closer to the person speaking or the person speaking moved closer to conference phone.

Councillor Talbot joined the meeting (19:09).

The minutes from the meeting held on 5th March 2020 were unanimously approved.

Matters arising:

- a) Tree survey of all council trees was agreed by the Council on 20th August 2020
- b) Rugby Club permission for erecting advertising boards was confirmed by Council dependant on the appropriate planning permissions being sought on 19th March, but no further action taken by HRFC due to the Covid-19 pandemic, fire and bigger picture for the ground.
- c) Artificial cricket wicket removal was agreed by Full Council on 19th March.
- d) Hadleigh Food Bank festival took place at the ground as per recommendation to Council and agreed in 19th March Full Council minutes, Cllr Schleip asked how the

event went and Charlie Warburton feedback that it seemed a success with the HRFC providing volunteers on the day and the two film showings were well attended.

- e) Cllr Knock asked if the septic tank issue was resolved and what the outcome from Environment Officers at Babergh is. Alan Munson replied stating the report from the Chief Environmental Officer was that the case was closed in their files and no further action is needed and that Hadleigh Town Council had agreed to empty the tank twice yearly. Cllr Knock disagreed with the statement of the Environment Officer as did Charlie Warburton and James Pitcher who stated the current soakaways simply do not work and they've also been aware that sewage is fed through what is thought to be incorrect pipework from the septic tank. Cllr Knock suggested a dye trace in the septic tank should be undertaken by the Town Council themselves and in his opinion the solution is to put in place a separate soakaway for the car park surface water.

It was agreed by the Chair to recommend to Full Council that an in-house dye test be undertaken at an appropriate time.

Cllr Knock also mentioned that the metal lid of the septic tank should be secured as anybody could lift and an accident could happen. Alan Munson replied and all agreed that any plans for the new build would involve a full review of the waste systems, soakaways and septic tank.

It was agreed this was a matter of public safety that should be resolved ASAP by the Town Council Manager acting within his authority.

3. Operational Report from the Services Officer

Alan Munson confirmed since March following the covid-19 pandemic and the fire its been a testing time and the Layham Road facilities have hardly been used however now they are back to life and the tennis courts and pitches are back in use and functioning well. Rabbit damage on the pitches requires a constant supply of top soil for users to fill holes and this is the short term remedy until a longer-term solution can be sought.

Charlie Warburton agreed that is the only option for now and seems to be working so long as the infilling does not get missed.

Tony Hayward asked if there was any solution for a long-term deterrent to the rabbits. Charlie Warburton replied that rabbit proof fencing should be considered in the new pitch and pavilion costs and plans and there was general consensus towards this view. James Pitcher noted for reference that the rabbit proof fencing around the Scouts' areas of the grounds helped reduce numbers seen and holes burrowed.

Cllr Beggerow reported that the Football Club has significantly reduced their problem with rabbit damage by erecting new fencing on their boundary with rabbit wire protection.

4. Action any requests from the users

Tony Hayward informed the contractor's cost for marking football pitches has increased from three pitches at £590 to two pitches at £700 so have taken this in-house. Charlie Warburton said the Rugby Club was unsure if it was their responsibility or if the Town Council provides a service for marking their pitches. They need markings from September so will do it themselves or via a contractor.

A conversation pursued regarding combining the marking of all pitches to generate more economical quotes from contractors and either the Rugby Club and Football Club work

together or it could be passed to the Town Council to facilitate if deemed needed by the parties.

Action: further research by Charlie Warburton and Tony Hayward to be undertaken to establish costs and contractors abilities marking multiple sports pitches.

5. Hadleigh Town Council – update on Pavilion insurance claim

Alicja Barnes advised the office have been pursuing the insurers regularly and will be increasing their chasing further from next week. It is believed the claim is documented and the office is simply awaiting the confirmation and paperwork.

Cllr Beggerow advised consequential loss monies (e.g. hiring temporary changing rooms) will also being sought through the claim if consequential loss cover is in place and the Office is now looking into this.

6. Hadleigh Rugby Club – update on insurance claim

Charlie Warburton confirmed the claim for the Rugby Club's building and contents was confirmed on Wednesday 9th September and the claim was met 100%. Contents replacements have been ordered. The building was requested by insurers to be suggested replacement like-for-like but the RFC is contesting this so as to replace with a more modern and better secured module.

7. Hadleigh Rugby Club – update on short and long term plans

Charlie Warburton advised that the Rugby Club are content with staying at Layham Road for the foreseeable future particularly if modernisation, improvements and cohesive working is to take place. Their decision was based on the three-way contractual relationship with the Hook Lane development now being re-considered by the Rugby Club as too much of a risk. Whilst it would provide the Rugby Club (subject to planning approval for the development) with a long security of tenure at Hook Lane the LRSG has more support and facilities. Their club is a third smaller now than four years previously so their preference in the medium to long term is to remain at Layham Road. Charlie also confirmed in the short term the club does not require any changing facilities until the new year at the earliest and is investigating a container or modular building as a temporary measure.

Cllr Schleip asked if the Rugby Club not pursuing Hook Lane means the community would lose out if the development then doesn't provide a pitch area. Charlie Warburton replied that he did not know the answer to that but that the Rugby Club had not even got to the planning stages so they had no commitment confirmed with the development but as demand for housing increases undoubtedly there would be a demand for more communal open spaces. Apparently there are new developers coming in to progress the Hook Lane development.

Cllr Knock asked if the flooding causes the Rugby Club any inconvenience or problems currently? Charlie Warburton replied it does not, only the car park and bottom of the first pitch area.

8. Hadleigh Town Council / Hadleigh Tennis Club – update on tennis floodlights

Floodlights are currently not working due to the fire and the insurance regarding health and safety of entering the building. There is electricity in the building still live but it is isolated and access is only via the electrics cupboard in the changing rooms which is currently out of bounds. The tennis club require floodlights for their winter league.

Cllr Beggerow explained the quote from S Cowle regarding disconnection of the existing electrics leaving only the floodlights and rugby club feeds live. This would cost £150 + vat. To make an external feed to the building for the floodlights would cost £799 + vat. To add a submeter check box for the tennis floodlights in a weatherproof box would cost £164 + vat. Geoff Scott and the Council perspective is that this is a large sum for a few months' temporary measure on a building that is to be replaced. Geoff Scott noted he has agreed with the tennis league for Hadleigh Tennis Club to play all their away matches first in the league and therefore wouldn't need a solution until into the new year. This allows the opportunity for the Town Council time to talk with UK Power Networks who can conduct a survey to explore the possibility of installing a GRP cabinet external to all buildings with a temporary supply for the Rugby Club and floodlights which could be upgraded to house the full supply in due course. Speaking on behalf of S Cowle, Tony Hayward advised this is the best course of action and that he would be happy to attend such a survey and be an advisor to the Council on such matters.

Action: survey with UK Power Network be undertaken (usually this is FOC but this would be classed as a major service so will take them some time to schedule and come out) with Alicja Barnes and Tony Hayward at the earliest opportunity to ascertain options and costs.

Action: it was agreed as a safety precaution to take the matter of the electrics at the pavilion to the TCM to act within his delegated authority by instructing S Cowle to isolate and strip the current electric board leaving only the Rugby Club and Tennis Courts supply to the floodlights connected at £150 +vat.

9. Rolf Beggerow – update on 3G Pitch Project

A positive Local Football Facilities Plan was published for Babergh District Council by consultants sponsored by the FA, Premier League and Sport England. This report identifies Hadleigh as a priority area for development of a 3G pitch. The working group should be used as a forum for formulating ideas and discussions for the 3G pitch and the new pavilion to help put together the document for plans and funding. Rolf Beggerow was invited to a meeting with the Football Foundation and the Suffolk FA and they have indicated they will help us building up a strong funding application so we obtain a good funding percentage of the cost. It is estimated that a Full size, Floodlit and enclosed 3G pitch would cost in the region of £700k. The Football Foundation does not have a cap on the % available to be granted and the grant is based on the strength of the business case presented. The Football Foundation do contribute to any directly associated costs such as changing rooms.

The initial phase is for a shared vision document to be produced with a compelling case for the FA (Football Association) and the Football Foundation to engage with us and provide their support for our planning and design process leading to a grant application.

James Pitcher asked about possible locations for the new AGP, or 3G Pitch. Rolf Beggerow answered that the most suitable position would be alongside the scout ground towards the rugby pitch and Charlie Warburton agreed the rugby pitch would not be disturbed or would be able to accommodate a slight shift for the pitch to go there. Rolf Beggerow explained originally the location sited was the old hockey pitch behind the tennis courts but that on further measuring and investigation that area is too slightly too

small and he has learned that the Football Foundation very much prefer to fund a full size 3G pitch.

Charlie Warburton advised that for the rugby club to be able to use an AGP it would need to have a shock layer underneath but that the RFU would be able to advise further and may be able to support with some funding.

Action: A meeting to be arranged with the RFU, Suffolk FA, to introduce Alicja Barnes, facilitated by Charlie Warburton for introductions, to be able to utilise and draw upon their experience for this project and request some case studies of other artificial pitches they have worked with.

The full report can be found here: <https://localplans.footballfoundation.org.uk/local-authorities-index/babergh/babergh-local-football-facility-plan/>

10. Review/Brainstorm planning ideas for the new Pavilion building

Discussion pursued regarding the number of changing rooms and all users agreed four was the minimum requirement. This is what was submitted for the planning permission granted in 2019, but is recognised in those plans there was no provision for office space to accommodate management of the improved sports facilities now being discussed.

Councillor Schleip suggested a holistic view be taken and before suggesting ideas, for each user to visit facilities representing prime examples of their sport and report back on their findings.

Geoff Scott advised the tennis courts have been resurfaced a number of times and that they have a lifeline. He will look into the details of this and report back. There may be LTA funding available for inclusion in the overall project. Geoff Scott also commented that a two-storey building would very much dampen the tennis playing availability as frosts would harbour playing in the mornings throughout most of the year and the courts would be very shaded.

Action: Councillor Beggerow and Alicja Barnes to begin preparing a vision document and to share with the Working Group members. This should begin in parallel with a smaller focus group of users to further explore options and ideas and preparing a Programme of Use for the 3G pitch.

20:45 Cllr Talbot left the meeting.

Steve Cladman asked if there are any plans for surveillance following the arson. Charlie Warburton replied the rugby club had already installed a high definition 6 camera motion sensor circuit which covers the entire area and holds data for three years on the hard drive. This was funded by the installation company as a donation with a value of £3.5k.

11. To agree next meeting date of the Working Party

No specific date was agreed but a Wednesday each month is the preferred option moving forward. The Town Council office will arrange a meeting for October.

12. Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 21:00.