

**MINUTES OF THE COURTS WORKING GROUP  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 OCTOBER 2022  
AT 10am AT THE CLUBHOUSE, TROTTISCLIFFE TENNIS CLUB**

**PRESENT:**

Trottscliffe Parish Council Attendees:

David Goodworth (DGG), Louise Leyden (LL), Alison Prountzos (AP), Richard Vallance.

Trottscliffe Tennis Club Attendees:

Tony Piper (TP)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Louise Goldsmith (Clerk), 1 member of the public

**15/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was accepted from David Gaunt (DG) and his reason for absence was accepted.

**16/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**17/22 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was resolved that DGG sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 July 2022 as a true and accurate record subject to the addition of the wording '30 Members who play LTA Team matches' to item 09/22 (e).

**18/22 OPEN SESSION**

No comments.

**19/22 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Clerk has circulated a revised draft terms of reference for the group. TP advised that these need to be discussed once the long-term arrangements for the tennis club is clarified.

**Recommendation: Full Council to review the terms of reference when a decision has been made about the long-term arrangements for the tennis club.**

**20/22 SCHOOL USE OF THE COURTS**

TP explained that the school continue to hold two after school slots on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. TP suggested that it could be beneficial for both the tennis club and school to use the same coach for Juniors and to also put in place an arrangement for school children playing tennis after school to become members of the tennis club. The tennis club coach has availability to run the after school sessions and already coaches some of the school children.

**Recommendation: To explore the option for school children attending after school tennis at the courts to become members of the tennis club and for the school to use the tennis club coach.**

**21/22 TENNIS CLUB**

TP advised that the new floodlights have been installed at a cost of £11,248.98 (excluding VAT). TP thanked Members of the Parish Council for the contribution of £500.00 towards the new floodlights. The new lights are 2m lower and should be more effective and reduce light pollution. The contractor is due to come back and make some minor adjustments to the direction of the light and then the invoice will be paid. TP explained that the tennis club is reviewing its policies and in particular its policy on safeguarding which is a requirement of

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the LTA. Fran Bennett advised that the tennis club propose to hold a quiz night in January 2023. TP was pleased to advise that JD electricals has taken out a membership contract for all its employees.

**22/22 PUBLIC USE OF THE COURTS**

The Clerk advised that members of the public at the last Parish Council meeting had complained about the current £20.00 hire charge per court which was deemed to be excessive. TP advised that the Tennis Club Committee has been reviewing the public hire charge and could be willing to reduce the hire charge to £10.00 per hour per court. TP agreed to confirm the suggested reduction to the Clerk. Once confirmed TP agreed to update the online booking system and the Clerk will place an article about the hire charges and information on how the public can book a court in the next edition of the Trottiscliffe Tatler

**23/22 NETBALL**

There was no official update. It is understood that the netball team is currently practicing on the MUGA in Wrotham.

**24/22 PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A MUGA ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk has submitted a grant application form to the FCC Community Action Fund for a MUGA on the recreation ground. A decision is expected before the end of the year. DGG met with the landowner of the area behind the tennis clubs. The landowner may be willing to consider leasing this land for further court provision or a MUGA subject to further information. However, it was noted that the Parish Council is currently pursuing the installation of a MUGA on the recreation ground subject to funding.

**25/22 MAINTENANCE OF THE COURTS**

TP reported that the concrete footpath from the main facility entrance that leads down to the courts is in need of attention. The wide concrete area at the beginning of the path continues to degrade and due to the recent drought the first joint in the path is displaced causing a trip hazard. TP circulated a spreadsheet, (appended to the minutes), showing the projected costs for repairs and improvements to the courts for the next 10 years. These projections demonstrate that £6,278.00 would need to be allocated to a sinking fund each year. TP agreed to add the annual general maintenance cost for the courts to this spreadsheet for a further discussion at the next meeting.

**Recommendation: The Clerk to obtain quotes for remedial works to the concrete footpath.**

**26/22 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Nothing additional.

**27/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 10am on Friday 20 January 2023 in the club house.

There being no further business the meeting closed 10.57am

Signed: ..... Date: .....

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