

**MINUTES OF THE COURTS WORKING GROUP
HELD VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY 16 JANUARY 2024**

PRESENT:

Trottscliffe Parish Council Attendees:

Richard Vallance (RV - Chair), Louise Leyden (LL)

Trottscliffe Tennis Club Attendees:

Tony Piper (TP)

Trottscliffe Primary School

Lucy Henderson (LH)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Louise Goldsmith (Clerk)

27/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

28/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

29/23 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was resolved that RV signs the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 September 2023 as a true and accurate record.

30/23 OPEN SESSION

No members of the public present.

31/23 SCHOOL USE OF THE COURTS

LH advised that the after school tennis coaching continues to run on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. The school would also like to use the courts on a Thursday morning in the summer term as in previous years. It was acknowledged that LH is helping with trying to generate interest in use of the courts and improve Junior membership by promoting all the activities at the tennis club in school publications. TP agreed to send details of the coaching/camp available over the next half term break. TP would like to see a better integration of the community and the tennis club and in particular with all the local schools. TP advised that the relative new Junior coach, Frankie Faulkes, is being well received but does not have enough Juniors to coach which is financially not viable long term. TP believes that the situation is not helped by the fact that the school use a different Junior coach. LH advised that the school would like to keep their existing coach in the interests of continuity and reminded the working group that the tennis club has had a number of Junior coaches over the last few years. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the new tennis club coach to meet with LH to discuss out of school Junior coaching. TP agreed to arrange this meeting. TP advised that the goal is for Trottscliffe tennis club to be seen as a family focussed and junior tennis centre of excellence.

2.26pm LH left the meeting

32/23 TENNIS CLUB

TP advised that two members Anna Shawcross and Laura Pigott are now helping with recruiting new Juniors and that there has been a small increase in Junior membership. The Tennis Club Committee continues to strive to obtain new members. It was noted that the new financial year commences on the 1 April 2024 and the membership year starts on the 1 May

Initials:.....

2024. TP advised that he is heading up a new working group who are looking to be improve the advertising of the activities at the club by utilising social media and channels and traditional forms such as posters, flyers, banners. The Clerk and LL agreed to help TP in advertising some of the initiatives at the club such as a free trial membership. TP reported that Fran Bennett is going to be organising some social events which will also be open to non members and which should hopefully lead to a further increase in membership. RV suggested that Fran Bennett liaises with the Courts Working Group to make sure these events do not clash with other village events.

33/23 PUBLIC USE OF THE COURTS

TP reported that there were 27 public bookings for the year commencing the 1 May 2023.

34/23 MAINTENANCE OF THE COURTS

It was noted that the maintenance of the courts surface is ongoing. A deep clean is recommended for the courts and this would hopefully mean the courts will not need resurfacing for another 6-7 years. The posts on three sides of the courts have been replaced and the posts on the fourth side need to be done. The remaining lifespan of the courts surface is being considered along with funding requirements for a new surface. TP shared a capital expenditure forecast for the next 10 years. Funds of over £68,000 are required for this period with £10,000 required to replace the decking and £45,000 to resurface the courts. TP explained that a combination of grants and an increase in membership is required to fund these projects. The forecast includes an annual contribution of £500 per annum from the Parish Council. The Clerk advised TP that the Tennis Club Committee has already been informed that the Parish Council's new grounds maintenance contractor will be cutting the grass down the side of the tennis club 14 times between April and October each year and that the Parish Council will be funding the annual cost of £476.00. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council may be able to assist with grant funding applications for funding from such sources as the West Kent Rural Grants Scheme. The Clerk also offered to find out if S106 funding available for outdoor sports could be considered by T&MBC as applicable to the tennis club. LL suggested that the tennis club investigates the possibility of sponsorship from local businesses such as the physiotherapist in the village and Gallaghers in West Malling. LL offered to place some flyers in both the village pubs to promote the club and to place details on the village WhatsApp group.

35/23 PROPOSAL FOR A MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT

A draft Management Agreement, prepared by TP on behalf of the tennis club, was discussed. At the suggestion of RV, TP agreed to revise the draft Management Agreement to correct the date of the original lease to the 30 March 1993 and to add a termination clause. The Clerk will share the revised copy of the proposed Management Agreement with Full Council at the next meeting and will then take legal advice from the Parish Council solicitor.

36/23 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Nothing additional.

37/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 2pm on Tuesday 30 April 2024 in the club house.

There being no further business the meeting closed 3.12pm.

Signed: Date:

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