

**MINUTES OF THE COURTS WORKING GROUP
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023
AT 10AM AT THE CLUBHOUSE, TROTTISCLIFFE TENNIS CLUB**

PRESENT:

Trottscliffe Parish Council Attendees:

Richard Vallance (RV - Chair), Louise Leyden (LL), Ian Mills (IM)

Trottscliffe Tennis Club Attendees:

John Bennett (JB), Fran Bennett (FB)

Trottscliffe C of E Primary School Attendees:

Headteacher Lucy Henderson (LH)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Louise Goldsmith (Clerk)

01/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Steve Dakin (Chairman of the Tennis Club Committee) and the reason for absence was accepted.

02/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

03/23 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was resolved that RV signs the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 January 2023 as a true and accurate record subject to the changing of the words 'has reached out' to 'plan to reach out' in line 4 of item 33/22.

04/23 OPEN SESSION

No members of the public present.

05/23 Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference for the working group were reviewed and approved.

06/23 SCHOOL USE OF THE COURTS

LH explained that the school is in a very fortunate position of having a number of extra curricular activities this term so will only require the courts for after school tennis on Tuesday afternoons. LH advised that next term the after school tennis lessons will more than likely revert back to being held on Thursday afternoons as well. It was noted that afternoon extra curricular sessions take place between 3.30 and 4.40pm. LH explained that the school has a good relationship with their junior coach and would not want to explore an option of using the tennis club's junior coach. It was noted that ideally the school would like to use the courts for curricular activities on Thursdays from 9am-12pm. LH agreed to discuss the requirements for next term with FB.

07/23 TENNIS CLUB

JB explained that the Tennis Club Committee is reaching out to the local schools to attract new juniors as numbers have fallen slightly. JB gave details of a new initiative, the LTA Youth Start programme. The programme is aimed at children aged between 4-11 years old who have never played tennis before. The tennis club has taken on board this initiative which gives children a chance to have 6 free lessons and some free equipment including a racket. It is hoped that this initiative will lead to an increase in the number of junior members. The Tennis

Initials:.....

Club Committee has also hired a new coach to conduct some adult cardio-tennis sessions. FB explained that these sessions are open to non-members as well as members of the tennis club. It was suggested and agreed that the tennis club should promote both these initiatives on social media and in The Tatler. JB explained that promotional banners for the tennis club are to be erected in the vicinity of the clubhouse and on the fence of a private house in Vigo. IM suggested that the Tennis Club Committee sponsors the production costs of a future edition of The Tatler. FB advised that the Tennis Club Committee is considering venues to hold a 30th Anniversary party in May 2024.

08/23 PUBLIC USE OF THE COURTS

JB reported that there has been no public use of the courts since the last meeting.

09/23 NETBALL

LH advised that school netball team has had a successful year playing tournaments and is looking forward to using a full sized court.

10/23 PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A MUGA ON THE RECREATION GROUND

RV advised that the installation of the MUGA commenced on the 22 May 2023 and is expected to be completed within 6 – 8 weeks. LH advised that the school is really looking forward to using the MUGA for a number of sports including athletics. It was noted that the tennis club has kindly offered to pay for the locking post and netball posts. It was agreed that it would be great to see the MUGA being used for five-a-side football and that hopefully a coach will come forward and organise a team.

11/23 MAINTENANCE OF THE COURTS

JB explained that the Tennis Club Committee continues to take care of any maintenance issues. The Tennis Club Committee would welcome revisiting a proposal for the Parish Council to sub-lease the courts to them. JB explained that the tennis club currently has no security of tenure. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council’s lease with the landowner would need to be changed to allow them to sublease the courts. JB asked if the grounds maintenance contractor for the recreation ground could be approached and asked to cut two areas of grass adjacent to the courts.

Action: The Clerk to ask the grounds maintenance contractor about cutting the areas of grass around the courts and to arrange for the Parish Council to revisit the current lease with the landowner for the courts and to re-consider an option to sublease the courts to the Tennis Club Committee.

12/23 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Nothing additional.

13/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

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

There being no further business the meeting closed 10.58am

Signed: Date:

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