

# **BEDFIELD PARISH**

## **(Draft) Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

The meeting commenced at 2010 in the Bedfield Sports Pavilion

### ***05/19 - 01 Present***

- Keith Frost (KF), Jenny Barham, Suzie Carr, Ed Nesling, Richard Pickard, John Dickson and Brian Belton (BB). (All Bedfield Parish Council Members).
- Geoff Robinson (GR) as Parish Clerk.
- Alison Manning as the play area project manager (AM).
- Fourteen members of the public.

### ***05/19 - 02 Apologies***

- Nigel Billington and Graham Mobbs.

### ***05/19 – 03 Chairman***

- The meeting was Chaired by KF, the Bedfield Parish Council Chairman, as required under local government legislation.

### ***05/19 - 04 Minutes of the Last Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018)***

- These had been previously circulated and had been agreed at the full Parish Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018, but were circulated again.

### ***05/19 - 04 Chairman's Report***

KF opened his annual report by thanking those present for attending and staying on after the parish council AGM. He summarised the past (2018/2019) year, the salient points of which were:

- Thanks were again due to GR for his continuing knowledge and commitment to both the Parish Council and the Sports Club.
- Also, the same comments very much apply to Matthew Hicks, our local councillor for his endless support, encouragement and grants, which are very much appreciated.
- Similarly, thanks to the many other people in the village who make it all come together, including Vince Prank for keeping an eye on the cPADs, Gillian Edmunds our caretaker and everyone who helped in any way to maintain our beautiful field and facilities. Despite all the recent matters raised over dog fouling on the field, he was very grateful to David Lee and the other dog wardens for their never ending attempts to keep it clean and safe for everyone.
- GR expressed thanks on behalf of all villagers to KF for the way he maintains the whole area, particularly grass cutting and maintenance.

### ***05/19 - 05 Sport Field & Playground Project***

AM presented an update on progress so far on the proposed new play area, which is to be sited on the sports field. AM then requested and answered questions from the villagers present. This included producing a large size illustrated coloured plan obtained from one of the suppliers. Salient points of the presentation were:

- It is the intention to move the location of the current play area to the playing field and place it between the pole-barn and the tennis court. AM emphasized that the plans so far are not set in stone and all comments will be welcome and considered.
- Three equipment suppliers had been contacted and have since visited the proposed plan area.
- They all had now submitted estimates based on a ballpark figure of £30k (excluding VAT), whilst a fourth was awaited. A specification by AM had been that the final plan must appeal to as wide a range of ages as possible, with easy access for everyone.
- It is also hoped to reuse some of the timber from the current play area in their plans.

- AM also explained that we are in a “chicken and egg” situation until we know what is wanted by potential users and a preferred bidder is chosen. Until then, we are unable to accurately budget for its purchase and installation. However, in due course we will be looking at approaching the Big Lottery, the CIL fund, MSDC and other organisations for grants. Some of the money will be provided by self-funding from the Parish Council and the Sports Club. Therefore, hopefully, will have a very successful fete this year to assist with this!
- A hard copy questionnaire will be circulated to as many people as possible and will be also available on the website. The “outcomes” from this will be used to support our funding and grant applications.
- In addition, further consultation will be the key to providing exactly what is wanted, covering the needs of very small children, through to young teenagers. Accordingly, a display at the summer fete will supplement the visit that AM had made to the current play area with children from Bedfield School.
- All the consultations and questionnaire will enable the Parish Council and Sports Club to decide who will be the preferred supplier and then proceed to the next stage of the project. Another consideration to be taken into account will be the ability of the new equipment to fit into the very rural setting we have. Grass (type) safety matting will also be used for this purpose.
- The current initial plans are based on a realistic figure of funding that we feel may be available but will allow for the facilities to be enlarged at later dates, should additional money become available,
- It is envisaged that the new play area will be fenced off from the rest of the field and in order to keep costs down, local estimates will be obtained for this requirement.
- The need to consider, especially for the older children, the amount of sunshine that the proposed area receives in afternoons has been taken into account.
- Some concerns were expressed regarding potential vandalism or bullying from older children. This was acknowledged as a possibility and the solution may be to install CCTV, which would also help with the general security of the area and potentially assist to identify “rouge” dog walkers.
- BB explained that although it was originally considered that the sale of the current play area as a building plot would pay for the relocation, the fact that it is on registered Common Land makes this impossible. It was generally agreed the fence would be removed after relocation.

KF concluded by thanking AM for her excellent research and for the presentation. He then asked the villagers for their initial overall thoughts. Without exception they were very enthusiastic and backed what had been done so far and was planned. He again thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.

The meeting closed at 2100.

**Chairman .....**