

PIRTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Minutes of a Meeting on Tuesday, 7th
January 2020, at 7.30pm at the Club House

Present: S Smith – Chairman
J Cumberland
R Manders
D Saunders
A Scott

		ACTION
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Simon Maple</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>SS reported that the £400 sponsorship is still not forthcoming and he feels we are not going to get it.</p> <p>Mandate to change the bank account to National Westminster – SS said this is finally up and running and the card reader has been received. He just has to switch the remaining Unity Trust balance over. DS will pay the cheques he has into the bank.</p> <p>The price increases have been implemented and the tills and card reader altered..</p>	
4	<p>Reports</p> <p>Treasurer - SS handed round the accounts which showed a profit of £3,739.55 and said we still have the Boxing Day Run money to come.</p> <p>SS said that depreciation will be £3,669 in the current year.</p> <p>The current bank balance in Unity Trust is £27,237 with £11,450 in the Nat West.</p> <p>SS had emailed round a letter received from the Parish Council re the VAT situation. This was thoroughly discussed and the committee agreed that in their opinion, the attitude of the Parish Council is aggressive and obstructive. The committee were so disheartened and disappointed that a mass resignation from the PSSC committee and also the Rec Development Committee was put forward. However, it was agreed that before any decision was taken, RM will write to the Parish Council inviting them to come to our next meeting so the whole situation can be discussed face to face. It was also agreed that the committee will all sign this.</p> <p>Bar and Bookings – DS said that bookings are few but there are two in February, the 22nd and the 29th.</p> <p>JC mentioned doing a Welcome to Pirton event possibly around Friday, 1 May. It could be held at the Rec and JC will look into obtaining a marquee. She will also sort out a list of all the organisations in the village. We will need all the information by the beginning of April.</p> <p>DS said he had a booking by the Air Ambulance for some time in November. This would be an afternoon event. The car rally is also booked for 6th August.</p> <p>JC said someone had suggested to her about doing an outside cinema event. She knows someone who has all the equipment so this may be worth considering. Also someone else had asked if they could run a charity event some time in August.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>JC</p>

	Maintenance - SS reported that not much needs doing at the moment.	
5	Parish Council Matters None	
6	Youth Club Matters None.	
7	Any Other Business Affiliation Agreement between PSSC and the Football Foundation - SS said the Foundation would like some sort of security of tenure. He would like to set up a 10 year rolling tenure for use of the ground. This is to ensure that when the new pavilion is built they will be able to use it for a reasonable amount of time if they give us a contribution. Agreed to set up a 10 year tenure to commence on 1 st April 2020 to be reviewed after 9 years.	
8	Date of Next Meeting Date of next meeting is Monday, 2 nd March 2020	

Chairman

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PIRTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Minutes of a Meeting on Monday, 2nd
March 2020, at 7.30pm at the Club House

Present: S Smith – Chairman
R Manders
S Maple
D Saunders
A Scott
O Goldsmith

ACTION

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>None. SS welcomed Olivia Goldsmith to the committee. She is taking over from Jackie Cumberland who had to resign recently.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed.</p>	
3	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>The committee expressed their disappointment that Jill Rogers, Chairman of the Parish Council, had not attended the meeting since the whole purpose was to discuss the Parish Council's attitude to the Club.</p>	
4	<p>Reports</p> <p>Treasurer - SS handed round the accounts which showed a profit of £4,400 but this is subject to depreciation. He said we have had a difficult year mainly because of the wet weather and the Friday nights were not so well supported. The Bonfire Night event made a loss due to the weather and the Boxing Day run did not attract as many people. Also the current position of the Parish Council over VAT has not helped either.</p> <p>AS asked about the VAT situation and SS explained that when we bought anything major we would ask for invoices to be addressed to the Parish Council as they are registered as not needing to pay VAT. The Parish Council would pay the invoice including VAT, then reclaim the VAT from HMRC. The net value of the invoice would then be taken from the Parish Council's PSSC Project Pot. This went on for several years but now the current Parish Council have decided not to continue with the arrangement, thus costing the Club a considerable amount of money.</p> <p>Bar and Bookings – SS said that bookings are down on last year, again, the weather has not helped matters. Also there is more competition from the pubs and the village hall now it has a bar. We probably need to consider raising our profile more, possibly doing a brochure to promote what we have to offer.</p> <p>It may still be worth doing the Friday nights from 5.00 to 8.00 or so. OG felt it would work if it was monthly rather than weekly through the summer. She confirmed she would be happy to be involved with this. She also said that the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are interested in using the Club since they have had a few problems with the school hall. SS said we have not charged the Youth Club much so the same rates would apply to them, on the proviso that the sessions are properly managed.</p> <p>In May/June time, OG asked if we could plant pear trees. SS said this would be a good idea and suggested the mound behind the tennis courts. It would be possible to plant a small orchard there with possibly a couple of benches for people to watch tennis matches.</p> <p>OG also said there is an anti-litter campaign planned with re-cycling points throughout the village and she is hoping to get funding for this. The committee felt this was a good idea and SS said the Parish Council, among others, may have a pot for this sort of thing.</p> <p>We need to start having a few specialist events down at the Club and Jackie had suggested doing an outside cinema event as she knew someone who has all the</p>	

	<p>equipment. OG said Jackie has passed over to her all her contacts.</p> <p>DS said re bookings the Tennis Club are having a function on 28th March.</p> <p>There is a Welcome to Pirton being planned so we cannot do that but SS suggested having an Open Day so we can make the people in the two new estates aware of what the Club can provide. SM said it would be an opportunity to show the village how far the Rec Dev Group's plans have got. Agreed to go ahead with this on Friday, 15th May and SS will put a few ideas on paper and send them out to the committee.</p> <p>Maintenance - SS reported he has put down more shingle in the car park and put a new bulb in the store cupboard. SM said he has removed all the old football posts etc. SS has got an LED light for the corner of the shed and will install this when the weather improves.</p> <p>AS reported that the socket on the wall underneath the TV has a broken case. SS will repair this.</p> <p>The PIR needs moving to cover the steps outside the player's entrance.</p> <p>SM said that the timer for the MUGA only gives half an hour and the buzzer to warn players that time is almost up is not working which, obviously, causes problems. He asked if the tokens could go up to £2 for an hour and the timer changed accordingly. Agreed. SS will ask Mark, the electrician, to repair the buzzer.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>SS</p> <p>SS</p>
5	Parish Council Matters	
	None	
6	Youth Club Matters	
	None.	
7	Any Other Business	
	<p>SS said that the football club was eligible for grant funding from the Football Foundation towards renovation of the pitches and a grant application has now been submitted by the football club, following a pitch inspection in November. If the grant application is approved work will start on the pitches in mid-May. SS has spoken to Bullards, who currently carry out the grass-cutting, and they will do the work for a reasonable price.</p> <p>AS commented that the pitches being re-seeded may well make the problem with rabbits even worse than at present. He said we need to ask the Parish Council, yet again, about a cull as they are ultimately responsible for the recreation ground. They in turn will need to contact the landowners around the recreation ground who are legally responsible for dealing with rabbits.</p> <p>There are several rabbit holes in the pitches and it would be helpful to know the current position re insurance if someone were to injure themselves because of this hazard. RM will write to the Parish Council again. AS said that the previous cull did make a difference.</p> <p>DS reported that the rubbish bin is falling apart and SS will contact NHDC to request another one.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>SS</p>
8	Date of Next Meeting	
	Date of next meeting 21 st April 2020.	

	SS reported that he had been in contact with the representatives from Herts FA and the Football Foundation (FF) about their contribution. Herts FA employees are still on furlough until the end of August, but the feedback was that the FF is still working to a figure of £100,000, representing approximately 25% of the project costs.	
6	Date of Next Meeting Tba.	

Chairman

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PIRTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Minutes of a Meeting on Monday, 14th
September 2020, at 7.00pm via Zoom

Present: S Smith – Chairman
R Manders
D Saunders
A Scott

ACTION

1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Simon Maple and Olivia Goldsmith</p>	
2	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <p>SS reported that the income from the bar was just under £100 but in other income we have the grant of £10,000 from NHDC. There was also £50 of bank interest and the miscellaneous sum of £240 is a payment from the Parish Council towards emptying the bins. They will pass over another amount for September, October and November so this is ongoing.</p> <p>The electricity charge looks high but it’s a fixed amount and we are actually in credit.</p> <p>Repairs and maintenance has been outside stuff and the pads on the defibrillator.</p> <p>Overall there is around £40,000 in the 35 day notice account and still about £8,000 in the current account.</p>	
3	<p>Discussion of Charitable Trust Proposal</p> <p>SS explained the thinking behind the proposal. We would operate in the same way as the Bury Trust. We would be a registered charity with responsibility for everything on the recreation ground – playground and tennis courts also. We would not generate enough money in a year but the Parish Council could give us the amount they generally spend on the rec which is around £6,000. We could do everything like organising grass cutting etc. We could get our own contractors to do the cutting as the present situation is difficult given the pitch restoration work that’s happening. This proposal would also put behind us all the arguments we have had in the past. The proposal is that the tennis courts would be used solely for tennis and would be the tennis club’s own. The MUGA money pot would be transferred to the recreation ground trustees in a separate account which would be ring fenced. We could hand over management of this to the Club itself. The MUGA would no longer be used for football training.</p> <p>The Football Club might in the future change its name to Pirton Football Club. However, as Lea Sports has been in existence for almost 50 years it might want to retain the name until this milestone is reached.</p> <p>Finance: We would want the Parish Council to pay us an amount per year from the Precept. With regard to insurance, this would need discussion and the simplest option would be for the status quo to continue but, again, we need to discuss this with the Parish Council as they would need to contribute. The management proposal is that the committee of the Sports & Social Club forms the basis of the Trust and, hopefully, we can attract more people into becoming Trustees. It would make fund raising easier if we were a charity. We could publish the new development ideas and also ask building companies to zero rate their bills because we would be a charity.</p> <p>AS brought up the subject of control. If people are unhappy with the Trust how can they effect change as while members of the Parish Council are elected, Trustees would not be. SS said there would be representatives from the Parish Council on the committee so control could be maintained in this way. For instance, two people are appointed from the Parish Council on to the Bury Trust. We would also have to look into setting up a Constitution to ensure things are done properly. Beneficiaries of the trust would be the village as the trustees would not have any monetary gain and profits would be negligible.</p>	

	<p>In principle, we want to pursue this further and SS said we could ask Simon to take the proposal to the next Parish Council meeting. It would be helpful if the Parish Council could agree this idea before the budget meeting in November so if it could go on their Agenda for the October meeting this would be helpful. Agreed the committee would consider SS's proposal and send him any feedback and he will then ask Simon to take it to the Parish Council. .</p>	<p>SS/ SM</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Discussion of request from Beavers and Cubs to use the clubhouse</p> <p>SS has heard from the Beavers that they will not be meeting up again before January Consequently we can defer this until next year.</p> <p>With regard to use of the clubhouse, the cricketers and the footballers are using it for the toilets mainly and we have to ensure these are clean. The hot taps cannot be used as the system needs to be properly flushed out so they will need to be taped off and people asked to use hand sanitisers. DS pointed out that we will need running water even if it is cold.</p> <p>Agreed that SS will put up signs saying not to use the hot taps just the cold. We will probably have to use the gents toilets as unisex so only one toilet is available. This will stop people leaving the main door open when they've used the ladies toilets.</p> <p>Agreed also to put a table up in front of the kitchen hatch to stop people leaning over into the kitchen.</p> <p><i>(Post Meeting Note: Not needed now.)</i></p> <p>Cleaning: None has been done as the club has been closed, however, we do need it done once a week. DS mentioned that Christine is thinking of giving up and we need to know if she is definitely going to stop. DS will ask her.</p> <p>AS felt we need to clean between every use, i.e. Saturday and Sunday. DS will ask Christine if she will clean the contact points like door handles and light switches etc. He will decide a reasonable amount to pay her for this. If she decides to give up then we will have to get someone else as soon as possible.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>DS</p> <p>DS</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Container Storage</p> <p>SS said that the shed and garage are falling apart despite the repairs he has managed to do. We need to knock down the whole thing and build a new structure in its place to eventually connect to the main clubhouse. However, we will need to get planning permission so there's is no point knocking it down quite yet.</p> <p>He suggested getting three containers, one for each club, and siting them near the tennis courts. Simon is going to talk to the Tennis Club about having a place to make tea etc as this was a request they made a few years back. We can approach the three clubs and ask them for a contribution towards the containers and we would pay the remainder. The total cost is about £2,000 per container. If we take this on it will give the Recreation Ground Development Group one less problem to deal with.</p> <p>The main problem will be how to get the containers onto the rec but, once they are in place the sheds can be emptied. They can also be screened and SS suggested growing plants up the sides as this would prevent kids climbing on them and also help with the graffiti problem. It might also be a good idea to invest in another container just for us. Agreed this would be useful.</p> <p>SS summarised what had been said at the site meeting of the Rec Dev Group on Saturday morning. Basically its not worthwhile extending the car park into the playground. There are three possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> around the back of the play area the far side of the football pitch there is a strip of land between the playground and where the Coles have built their new barn which we may be able to rent and build a bridge over the ditch 	

	<p>Carol-Anne McConnellogue is also talking to Phil Cook to ask if he would consider renting us a part of his land for over-flow parking on Saturdays.</p> <p>We could also move the posts along the side of the car park to give us more room for parking. SS will ask Darren to give us a quote for doing this work.</p>	SS
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None</p>	
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>TBA</p>	

Chairman

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PIRTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
Minutes of a Meeting on Monday, 14th
December 2020, at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: S Smith – Chairman
R Manders
S Maple
D Saunders

		ACTION
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Alan Scott</p>	
2	<p>VAT</p> <p>Because the Parish Council have sent a letter to the Sports & Social Club requesting that we pay the sum of £11,000 towards their VAT re-payments to HMRC the meeting was convened to discuss whether the Club feels that it is actually liable for this amount.</p> <p>As the Parish Council is allowed to claim back VAT for work done on its behalf the S&SC has, over the years, submitted invoices to the PC for payment so VAT can be re-claimed. However, despite not being asked to do so by HMRC, the PC decided to check back over their accounts for the last 7 years and concluded that the VAT on some of these invoices should not have been reclaimed.</p> <p>SS made the point that the invoices the Club submitted to the PC were done in good faith and at no point was there any query from HMRC with regard to VAT. He also confirmed that, if we do pay this money it will effectively wipe out any profit we have made in the last few years. He also pointed out that because VAT will be payable on all future events they will be less profitable than before.</p> <p>At no point was the Club consulted about the PC's VAT discussions and SS was not asked to join the impromptu Working Group set up to discuss this, despite being a Parish Councillor, treasurer to the S&SC and the football club and having been present at the meeting with the auditors. A meeting was arranged for the Chairman to meet us and, unfortunately, she failed to turn up. We have now been given a list of items on which the Council think we will need to pay back VAT, several of which are not correct.</p> <p>After a discussion the consensus was that we would be prepared to consider paying the VAT on the bar supplies but, since we were a committee of the PC, the issue is down to them to sort out not down to the S&SC. It was therefore agreed that SS would write to the PC to give them our reaction.</p> <p>It was also agreed that DS would look through the list.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>DS</p>
3	<p>Containers</p> <p>Deferred until the VAT issue is settled.</p> <p>However, DS wondered if we should inform the PC that we cannot afford to pay out the money the Club has offered towards the containers. SS said it was not a binding offer as it hasn't been approved by the committee.</p> <p>SS reported that David Barnard has donated £150 towards the cost of the access way.</p> <p>The containers cannot be installed until May/June because of the ground conditions.</p>	

4	<p>Beavers and Cubs</p> <p>SS has had a letter from the clubs asking if they can use the S&SC from January onwards. Unfortunately, we cannot open in the present circumstances so SS will write and let them know.</p>	SS
5	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>SM said that nitreous oxide canisters are being dumped on the rec. He has cleared them up but he felt we need to see what to do to try and stop it happening, i.e. cameras and signs possibly? SS said he has written and asked the local police to take a look. We just need to let people know round the village that there's going to be a police presence at the rec around the clubhouse. Agreed to keep a watching brief.</p> <p>There has been littering in the car park which is an offence so SM will notify the Parish Council.</p> <p>Work on the car park extension will begin on 20th December.</p>	

Chairman

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