

Frithelstock Parish Playing Field

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 2nd March 2016

Present: Terry Warrington (Chairman), Mark Thomas (Treasurer), Sarah Hinsbey, Julian Carrington (Minute taker).

Apologies: Ian and Eileen Brown, Martin Little.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Chairman's Report 2015/16

Terry summarized activities during the year:

- Overall a quiet year.
- The Play Area Inspection was carried out in April 2015 by The Play inspection Company, which highlighted a number of maintenance issues. These were picked up by the working party in the annual maintenance check in May.
- The Park was then prepped up for the Music Festival in June.
- The annual August Bank Holiday Tractor Safari did not take place for a number of reasons including the incapacity of the Chairman, holidays of key people, and the much publicised Trumpton Bonfire on Torrington Common on the same day.

3. New Member to Committee – Julian Carrington

Julian and his wife Ann came to live in the village a year ago. A neighbour of Terry's, Julian had offered to help with the FPPF application to the Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All), having fundraised for a number of charities during his career. Later, Terry had asked him to extend his involvement by joining the management committee, subject to election and Julian agreed to this. See 9.

4. Big Lottery Fund (Awards for All) Grant Application

This was discussed and several points noted / agreed:

- As the FPPF was a community organisation and a legal entity in its own right, with a constitution and a bank account, it should make the application to the Lottery, not the PC. Indeed, under the Big Lottery Fund's conditions of grant, an application could not be made on behalf of another organisation.
- A survey carried out in the Frithelstock Prior, asking for ideas for new play equipment, had concluded that most respondents wanted a trampoline.

- The purpose of the application was to provide funds for the purchase and installation of this equipment.
- The maximum grant available from the Big Lottery Fund Awards for All pot was £10,000.
- VAT would need to be included in the cost of the project as the Playing Field could not recover it.
- 2-3 quotes would be sought.

Action: Julian would press ahead with the application.

5. Maintenance of the Playing Field 2016

(i) Play Area Inspection

A date had been agreed with The Play Inspection Company. It was felt that some equipment was starting to show its age.

(ii) Working Party

A date would be set for local volunteers to tidy up and service the play equipment as usual. It was noted that the entrance to the playing field could also benefit from sprucing up. Action: Terry to explore with interested parties including the PC, in order to determine which party had responsibility for the maintenance of the entrance.

(iii) Strimming

The field needs to be strimmed every week in the growing season. It was agreed to ask Stuart Faulkner again as he had done a good job last year. Stuart is holding the group's equipment. A budget of £150 for the year would be set aside. Action: Mark to check with Stuart that he is available this year.

6. Tractor Safari

The Safari would take place on Sunday 28th August. Ian and Eileen Brown had offered to source the tractors (Ian) and help with the refreshments afterwards in the village hall (Eileen). Hopefully the PC would run the bar again. Other ideas:

- Music (not live) – Mark to investigate
- Sumo wrestling – Terry to investigate
- BMX racing - Sarah to investigate
- Face painting – Sarah to investigate

The route of the Safari, and the location of the images were still to be agreed.

A disclaimer would need to be prepared and displayed prominently stating that the public took part in the Safari at their own risk.

A meeting of the committee would be called to finalize plans nearer the time.

7. Football pitch

The current pitch was too large and bumpy. Several points were made:

- A smaller pitch is more suitable to local needs
- A local farmer could be asked to roll the field
- Maybe reduce the size of the existing goal posts and bring closer together in line with a smaller playing pitch
- Try to use existing nets to fit new goal size
- Adrian Green has offered a container for use as a changing room / storage

Action: Mark to look into this. Hopefully no cost would be incurred.

8. Treasurer's report

Opening balance 1/4/2015:		£1622.89	
Income in the year:			
Torridge DC	£1000		
Parish Council	295		
Total	£1295	£2917.89	Net after grass cutting fees deducted
Expenditure:	£408.24		
Closing balance		£2509.65	

Expenditure included an amount for insurance, however Julian advised that the PC might be insuring the Playing Field as part of its comprehensive cover of parish assets.

Action: Julian to check with PC Clerk whether Playing Field covered under PC insurance.

9. Elections to Management Committee

Under the constitution, all members of the management committee shall retire from office together at the end of the AGM next after the date on which they came into office but they may be re-elected. Terry had contacted Martin Little, and Ian and Eileen Brown and all were prepared to be re-elected. Ditto Terry, Mark and Sarah. Julian agreed to stand and take on role of Secretary for a year. All elected.

Julian reported that the Clerk of the PC, Patrick Blossie, had agreed to look into PC representation on the Playing Field Committee.

Terry reported that Adrian Green, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, was hoping to have an exchange of representation with the Playing Field on the respective committees and also was approached by Mike Stokes regarding a parish councilor being on the committee to strengthen the links between the groups.

10. Any other business

(i) Constitution

It was advised that a revision of the constitution had removed charity references

(ii) Fields in Trust

Terry mentioned 'Fields in Trust', an initiative of the Government which offered protection in perpetuity for community playing fields. Action Terry and Julian to investigate.

JC / TW
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