



Sports Review – Minutes

Meeting at 10.00 a.m. Wednesday 18th January 2019 in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Tenterden.

Attendees:

TTC: Cllrs Mike Carter, Roy Isworth, Alan Sugden, Ken Mulholland & Justin Nelson.

Football Representatives: Graham Smith & Steve Parker.

Ashford Borough Council: Cllr Paul Clokie (Chair), Cllr Mike Bennett & Ben Moyle

In attendance: Town Clerk, Phil Burgess (Minute taker).

1. Apologies for absence. Kevin Day & Cllr Mike Hill (KCC) Victoria Crosbie-Cowley (TLC Serco) Stuart Saunders & Glenn Thompson (football) & Mark Seymour (Homewood TST).

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Agreed.

3. Matters Arising. None

4. Football Provision

a) Homewood responses to observations from seniors

- Absence of Corner Flags *To be made available for future matches*
- No cover for spectators. *TTC has offered to look at match funding a shelter in agreement with Homewood. This would clearly be a benefit to all users of the facility and sufficient room existed to erect one. Homewood were currently sourcing quotations.*
- OK for younger players but tough on the body for older players/Query regarding rubber grain infill. *Homewood had forwarded a field report in which the impact levels had passed scrutiny. The report provided by Steve Parker relates to American football (not soccer) and Ben Moyle said the experience of users at Pitchside in Ashford suggested that impact injuries had not been a significant issue and there had not been any report of an increase in impact injuries over the 10 years of operation. Indeed older players (Ashford Vets League) had refused to move back to grass having played on 3G. The rubberised crumb is one of the highest grades available. The US report would be sent to Ben Moyle.*
- Ball retrieval difficult (because of the distance) and impossible when areas locked off. *Homewood would ensure the areas were left open, but this is still an issue if balls have to be retrieved after the floodlights have been switched off. Ben Moyle agreed that this point needs resolution. Steve Parker stated that a single entrance and exit was against fire regulations.*
- Pitch too narrow. *Field test report and ground inspection report sent to the club. The width of the pitch (50m) is above minimum requirement.*
- Caterers for events. *Would be discussed with Homewood's caterers.*

Steve Parker stated that the seniors would strongly resist any attempts to move the club from the recreation ground and asked what would happen if the Smallhythe plot was not available in time. Cllr Clokie pointed out that measures were being taken to ensure replacement facilities were suitable for the club and a long-term solution would be found. Ben Moyle advised the committee that the seniors' experience was in stark contrast to other instances in the borough. Most clubs who had initially been reluctant to play on the 3G had been very happy with the experience and remained on the surface.

b) Funding Update

Homewood school had asked Ben Moyle to request that the first half of the tranches of the S106 funding be paid to the TST as they had forward-funded the 3G. The decision on allocation of the S106 funding received so far would be made at ABC Cabinet in March. The issue would also be put to the next TTC meeting to ensure the Town Council agreed to this arrangement.

c) Smallhythe Rd

Discussions had taken place between ABC and the owner of the Smallhythe plot. The site has been visited by Cllr Clokie, Ben Moyle and Planning Officer Simon Cole as well as Graham Smith who had had an initial plan produced of the area. A copy of this is held at the Town Hall. It shows 3 pitches (one full-size, one 9 a side and one 5-7 a side) this has been reduced from 4 pitches originally planned after objections from the owner. It may be possible to retain a 4th pitch in a different location on the plot. The plan was indicative of what could be suited there rather than the actual positioning. Negotiations have been very positive, and the main issue is whether the 5 houses proposed (along the Smallhythe Rd) would receive planning permission within the AONB if they were enabled by the sports facilities there. The likelihood is that they would receive planning permission as the community gain was significant.

The plan showed an indicative separate pavilion but in practice a new combined cricket/football pavilion would be preferable. The design would need to satisfy the planning requirements.

From the design perspective Ben Moyle advised that the FA would be likely to fund. Need should be demonstrated to the FA, but this should be achievable because of the population growth. Graham Smith has already lodged an expression of interest, but the full process can take 3 years.

This pitch arrangement would allow a healthy feed in of youngsters to the seniors. Steve Parker said that provision needs to be made for the August/September overlap of the cricket and football season. He backed a multi-sport hub on the plot and it was agreed that this would release additional funding. It would, however, be restricted by the amount of land the owner is prepared to release.

d) Temporary arrangements

In addition to the 3G, the current Appledore Rd pitch should be considered for a temporary upgrade both in drainage and facilities. Portacabins would also be needed to house changing and officials' facilities. Connections to services would also be required. Graham Smith's opinion was that this may cost between £50 and £100 thousand and take up to two years to arrange, by which time the Smallhythe plot could be well advanced. *Town Clerk to refer to council to fund assessment of feasibility and likely costs.*

The pitch at Homewood school itself (110x60m) had also been offered as a potential option by the school. It was considered by the footballers to be a very boggy pitch. *Again, the clerk will investigate costs to have necessary drainage work done. This would not require facilities and any expenditure could be shared with Homewood – but it was believed that some work had been done recently.)*

e) Other Issues

- The community use agreement for the 3G between ABC and the TST is publicly available on the ABC website.
- The design for the recreation ground has been publicly led and the council has a duty to consider all sporting and recreational needs.

5. Recommendations to Council.

- a) Seek agreement for Homewood's request to have the first tranches of Section 106 funding diverted to Homewood as they had forward-funded the total cost of the pitch.
- b) Seek authority to fund feasibility studies on the Appledore Rd site and the Homewood pitch to assess whether these are suitable options for temporary home for the club

6. AOB. None

7. Date of Next Meeting. TBA.