



Sports Review – Minutes

Meeting at 2.30 p.m. Wednesday 2nd May 2018 in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Tenterden.

Present:

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

Sport Tenterden: Graham Smith

Tenterden Juniors: Glenn Thompson

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

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

1. Apologies for absence. None

2. Minutes of the last meeting. Agreed.

3. Football Provision

Proposed 3G pitch at Homewood and Pitch Equivalence The latest communication from Sport England and a subsequent meeting between Ben Moyle and the Football Foundation and Kent County FA indicated that the 3G pitch at Homewood would qualify as a replacement for the recreation ground pitch provided the following conditions were met:

- A strong Community Use Agreement
- A signed Agreement on hire costs - ie the School would be bound not to make unreasonable annual increases on hirers.
- Provision of changing rooms to the standard and proximity required of the league TTFC play in.
- An approved maintenance regime
- A Sinking Fund being in place for replacement of the carpet
- Suitable parking and access arrangements
- Hire charges being affordable by the local clubs that are expected to use the facility

It was noted that the proposed 3G pitch was only an acceptable replacement while Tenterden Town was in its current league or the one immediately above; it would be inadequate if the club progressed further and was therefore a less-than-perfect replacement, with an effect on the public funding appropriate to apply to it.

The community use agreement should be geared to ensure that the reserve in the sinking fund could not be diverted to expenditure elsewhere within the school.

In addition to the above conditions a site visit should be made to the school to ensure the following:

- Suitable access to the pitches would exist outside school opening hours

- That the changing facilities were within an acceptable distance of the new pitch Darryl Haden (KCFA), Glenn Thompson, Graham Smith and Chris Metherell of KCC should accompany TTC representatives to the school to ensure the above conditions are satisfied.

Action: Town Clerk to arrange visit with Mark Seymour

It was noted that, originally, the partnership on the proposed 3G pitch was on the basis that the 3G pitch would go hand-in-hand with the long-term use of the pitches at Appledore Road. Appledore Road has now been taken out of the equation, so the 3G pitch at Homewood is necessarily less attractive than previously.

Graham Smith and Glenn Thompson confirmed that the football clubs would still want grass pitches provided, but the early availability of a 3G pitch meanwhile was important.

Ben Moyles confirmed that (a) the existence and (b) the partial funding of a 3G pitch at Homewood would not adversely affect the availability of grant funding from the Football Foundation for grass pitches elsewhere in the town

Section 106 funding in relation to ATP Homewood school had offered to meet 40% of the pitch cost with the remaining 60% coming from S106 funding. While Ben Moyle thought the community could indeed get up to 60% of the use of the 3G pitch, the committee felt that a 40% contribution from S106 (£180,000) would be more appropriate. The allocation of S106 funding to an educational establishment was very unusual and this should be conditional on the 3G pitch qualifying as a replacement for the recreation ground pitch.

If the 3G did not qualify, the funds would be required for a new facility (see item below).

It was pointed out that if the pitch is accepted as an equivalent, this would facilitate re-ordering of the recreation ground much sooner, since the 3G could be installed as early as the school summer holidays.

Ben Moyle commented that ABC would want to know TTC's wishes regarding the S106 money, and that it would be unusual for ABC to go against those wishes

Action: Negotiation with school, following inspection of site in paragraph above

Smallhythe Road Plot

Negotiations were underway to secure a lease on a plot for football (probably 18 acres, including ponds and mature trees – could accommodate a 3G pitch as well as required grass pitches and other sports facilities) on the Smallhythe Rd. The owner requested the opportunity to build 4-6 houses adjoining the Smallhythe Rd. The planning officers had indicated that this would be acceptable in principle and if this goes ahead, the planning applications would be submitted together. Rough outline plans were available but these are at a very early stage and the plot would easily accommodate all the requirements for football pitches, being larger than the originally proposed Appledore site.

The site has the additional advantage of being adjacent to the cricket club which would benefit from an extra pitch (the club is within the same ownership). Shared facilities would be possible in view of the short crossover between the cricket and football seasons. An extension to the building would be advantageous.

Following a first inspection Graham Smith advised that the ground condition was unlikely to present too many problems when converting to pitches. The cost for grass football pitches and an extended pavilion to serve both cricketers and footballers was estimated in the region of £400,000

Paul Clokie warned that the land being in the AONB and an SSSI, and the certainty of objections from at least one local resident (probably two) meant the proposal was by no means a foregone conclusion, but it was agreed that it was well worth exploring.

Action: Cllr Clokie to arrange a meeting with the owner. Graham Smith and TTC representative would also attend

4. AOB.

5. Date of Next Meeting. TBA following visits above.