

**Draft Minutes of the Virtual Bell Meadow Committee Meeting held  
via Zoom on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm.  
(subject to approval at the next meeting)**

**Present: Sue Irving (Chairperson), Sonya Smyth, Lisa Bryant, Matt Feekings, Toni Hazard**  
**Also, Present: Sara Archer – PC Clerk, Gordon Bryant – PC Chairman plus 3 members of public**

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Lee Ageros.

**2. Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 had been circulated to all members. No comments were made and all present were in agreement that they recorded an accurate account of the meeting.

Item 4 was brought forward to be discussed while the PC Chairman was in attendance to answer any queries regarding the cricket proposal.

**4. Cricket**

Cllr Bryant opened by reading the statement below:

Hello, can I start by clearly stating that this committee was set up by The Parish Council to support it. This committee is not here to challenge The Parish Council. If you think it is, then you are probably not the type of volunteer that we want to work with.

Should the challenging behaviour continue, then I will ask The Parish Council to abolish this committee and start again with a 'by invitation only' membership.

That said, I am here to clarify the use of Bell Meadow and The Pavilion by Reculver Cricket Club. The Cricket Club approached me some eight months ago for the possible use of the Bell Meadow. Cricket was played on the ground from 1984 through to about 2014. I have spoken to several residents that have said they would like to see cricket back.

The consultation for this started four months ago in my report to the Parish Council back in November. Prior to February's meeting, I provided a draft working agreement. I invited Reculver CC to that meeting and became a little bit alarmed at the time commitment required by the club. I believed that having the use of Bell Meadow for five evenings a week and the weekends was too much.

Subsequently, I wrote to Reculver CC and asked them to scale back their ambitions to two evenings a week. Their positive response was as follows:

*As you know due to the square not sure if any cricket will be played this season. If we do it would be towards the end.*

*These are the days and times we would require:*

Senior Cricket - Saturdays League Match Day

*Set Up to End - 11:30am to 7:30pm approx .. (various depending if match finishes early). There is 8-9 Home Matches starting from end April to first week in September.*

*We require the following: Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen/ (Bar if possible)*

Junior Cricket - Friday & Sunday League Match Days

*Sunday Morning - Set Up to End - 9:45am to 12:30pm .... 5-7 Home Matches from start of May to end of July.*

*Friday Evening - Set Up to End - 5:45pm to 8:30pm .... 4-6 Home Matches from start of May to end of July*

*We require the following on both days: Changing Rooms/Toilets/Kitchen (If you wanted to open bar but not essential)*

*Junior Training Evening - Mondays ... start 26th April 2021 to 30th August 2021 (depending how many children we have through summer holidays)*

*We require the following: Toilets & Kitchen (If you wanted to open bar but not essential)*

I think this is a reasonable request and it will form part of the working agreement should it be agreed by the Parish Council tomorrow evening. Please note that it is unlikely that there will be any cricket this Summer and when it does start it will be a maximum of nine weeks (likely to be alternative weekends) over the season.

It was suggested the cricket would benefit the Parish by bringing in a guaranteed income in 2022. The 2021 season would be offered at no charge due to the work being carried out by the club to renovate the cricket square, which equates to approximately £2000. The second benefit is for the enjoyment of all to have it being played in the area.

Confirmation of the role of the Committee was sought. It was suggested, the Committee should be seen as a positive way forward for the community and work together with the Parish Council.

Concern was raised whether the introduction of cricket was financially viable for the Parish Council, due to the initial season being offered for free and the indication from the cricket club at the last Parish Council meeting that they would want assistance with costs to renovate the pitch.

A committee member questioned why the committee had not been invited into the negotiations for the cricket from the offset. It was explained that the discussions began before the committee were appointed and the Parish Council were responsible for continuing to liaise direct with the Club.

The amount of time the cricket club initially required use of the Bell Meadow and Pavilion facilities was discussed. Concern was expressed that other community activities, such as boot fairs, would not be able to go ahead if the cricket was reintroduced, however, the Club had reduced the amount of time they required to two evenings and the weekend, for approximately half of the season. This would allow other activities to also take place at the Meadow. It was also confirmed that community events would take priority over the cricket, for example, the Open Gardens.

A public consultation was carried out by two members of the Committee, via facebook and a pop-up survey in Bell Meadow. The chairman advised that the comments on facebook were not representative of the whole parish and would therefore not be taken into account. It was suggested that a consultation was carried out by the Parish Council in order to take into account the views of the community.

It was confirmed the cricket club would be charged at the commercial rate of hire for the 2022 season.

### **3. Update Report**

The progress of the sink quotes was discussed. One quote had been obtained and two further quotes were in progress. It was suggested the Chairperson of the Committee should be a key holder, this would be put to the Parish Council by the Clerk.

A notice to invite new members to join the Committee would be placed around the village.

The meeting was concluded by The Chairperson at approx. 8:15pm.