



## BRATTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Chair** Jeff Ligo, 2 Grange Court, Bratton, Wiltshire, BA13 4TU 01380 831237 Email: [Jeff.ligo@bratton-parish.co.uk](mailto:Jeff.ligo@bratton-parish.co.uk)  
**Clerk** Nicola Duke, 81 Studland Park, Westbury, Wiltshire, BA13 3HN 01373 864127 Email: [nicola.duke@bratton-parish.co.uk](mailto:nicola.duke@bratton-parish.co.uk)

Minutes of a meeting of the Bratton Recreation Ground Committee held on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**  
in the Jubilee Hall at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Mr M Manson (Chair), Mr N Kew, Mr P Sharland and Mr S Lloyd.

**In attendance:** Nicola Duke (Parish Clerk).

**Open Forum to hear from members of the public – None.**

	AGENDA ITEM
BRG71	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Graham Preuveneers Cllr J Ligo Tony Jamieson-Yates James Fielder was thanked for his contribution as Bratton CC representative, having been replaced as an elected member by Noel Kew.
BRG72	<b>Matters arising from the September 2019 Committee meeting</b> To consider any matters arising from the meeting of the Committee held in September 2019 – None.
BRG73	<b>Finance Report</b> a) Statement of Accounts– members noted the previously circulated financial reports as at January 2020. It was noted that £660 cricket income remained outstanding despite being chased. It was agreed that Mr Lloyd would take on the chasing of the outstanding invoices in the future. The Chair reported that there had been limited football matches played since September and that this would impact on the expected and budgeted football income. There were some matches due but it was felt unlikely these would be played before the end of the 2019/20 financial year. It was also noted that the quiz night and fete incomes were down as neither event had taken place. The equipment sales would offset some of the 'lost' income. Grass cutting expenditure was expected to be under budget. Cleaning expenditure was also down due to the reduced usage of the ground. It was noted that there was a miscoding between pitch maintenance and grounds maintenance, although the overall budget figure was not far off expected. The electric budget was over that expected and was felt to be accurate as meter readings were given. It was noted that the expenditure was quite high and that there was no apparent reason for this.

	<p>b) Members noted the status of the reserve (capital) account, which now balanced following the transfers from earmarked reserves. The EMR was noted to now stand at £8,599. 90. It was confirmed that any surplus in the budget would be requested as a transfer to the EMR at year end. The Clerk would prepare a report on this for April before the accounts were closed down so that a decision could be made.</p> <p>c) Members discussed plans for further projects and capital spending in FY 2020/21 and agreed to defer this item until later in the agenda.</p>
BRG74	<p><b>Football and Cricket</b></p> <p>The Chair reported that Bratton CC had played more home matches than in recent years, Trowbridge 3rds and youth teams (4 teams) were playing but the Westbury 3<sup>rd</sup> team had folded. Members felt that the level of use could happily be accommodated.</p> <p>The Chair reported that in terms of football Westbury Reserves were expected to return and hopefully play more home matches on the main pitch. Also, Trowbridge U15's would be returning to play on the main pitch. Dilton Wasps were expected to return to play on the junior pitch and Trowbridge U13's had asked to play and have 2 teams to use the pitch. The Chair had provisionally agreed to this request and members confirmed they were content for this permission to be given.</p> <p>The Chair referenced a comment from Tony Jamieson-Yates, which had stated that they hoped to have a U10's team and potentially one other team for the new season. The Chair had informed him provisional permission had been given to Trowbridge. The Chair expressed some concern about having more than 3 teams using the junior pitch and queried whether the pitch would be suitable for use by under 10's. It was not felt it would be appropriate to ask volunteers to mark out a further pitch. It was agreed that the request would therefore not be granted.</p> <p>The Chair mentioned that a couple of bookings had been taken for the use of the team room and the outside space (birthday parties and such like). It was noted that this use may increase, especially given the fact that the Pavilion building was no longer available. The team room would continue to be advertised as a venue.</p> <p>Members discussed the potential for a request for football matches to be played on past the end of March. The Chair confirmed that the one match due to be played by Westbury could likely be accommodated. The past policy had been that football ceased at the end of April and preferably before in order that the outfield could be properly prepared for the cricket season. Mr Sharland noted that there would be more work required if football was to be played past the traditional cut-off date, noting that matches played on the junior pitch would not have so much impact. It was noted that any arrangement would be weather dependent. The mowing of the grass would commence in April, although it was noted that the footballers would like the grass slightly longer than the cricketers. It was agreed that the Chair would write to Tony Jamieson-Yates to request that home matches be ceased from the end of April. It was confirmed that the cricket season was due to start on 4<sup>th</sup> May.</p>
BRG75	<p><b>Recreation Ground maintenance</b></p> <p>a) Improvements/ planned improvements to the Ground</p>

- a. The Chair reported that the ground had been aerated twice, top dressing had been spread on the main football pitch, the whole ground had been weed killed and fertilised. Normal work on the cricket square had been carried out. It was felt that this work had had a good effect and been worthwhile. The ground was felt to be in good order.
- b. The Chair referred to the previously circulated draft improvement programme, which was discussed. It was noted that a football re-inspection was due as part of the FA pitch improvement programme. The Chair commented that the FA were likely to feel it would be ideal to carry out all the listed work, but it was noted that they were aware of the limited funds available for improvement work. Members discussed the draft programme and felt that some items should be addressed prior to the end of the financial year. The spiking would not be done before the end of the financial year. Mr Sharland reported that he had been hoping after the ECB inspection to become ECB affiliated and obtain a grant, this would not now be forthcoming and covers were still required. He suggested purchasing covers at a cost of £275.00 per wicket. He also outlined the desire to purchase germination sheets at a cost of £99.00 to cover the damaged areas of the creases. It was confirmed that these sheets could be left in situ during matches. Mr Sharland proposed that the Committee buy a 25 x 4 m germination sheet and a flat sheet at a total cost of £374.00 which would be funded from the general operating budget. This was seconded by the Chair and resolved. Mr Sharland would forward the details to the Clerk for an order to be placed. Members discussed the Allett mower and it was noted that this was due for a service and refurbishment – at an estimated cost of £500. It was agreed that this should be attended to during the current financial year.

- b) Options for improving drainage – Mr Kew reported on his research into drainage options and tabled a report, which is appended to the minutes. It was noted that the recreation ground was within the catchment area for the Bitham Brook source. The terrain was also shown to decrease in height above sea level, which would create run off. The cattle in the field to the east affected the soil and the fact that this was clay soil would exacerbate the issues of water on the ground. Mr Kew presented a plan indicating some options.

One of the options was an improvement to the ditches. It was confirmed that responsibility for managing the ditches rested with the landowner. The first proposal was therefore to reach out to the landowner to improve the top part of the ditch, which would reduce water runoff. The red lines represented where ditches could be installed to intercept surface water run-off. A survey would be required to ascertain the impact of any such works on ground water. An arching line across the farmer's field to the east demonstrated a potential spoon drain, which would require the input of the landowner. A small ditch curving into a larger ditch would assist with water flow. These were confirmed to be subtle ditches, which would be cost effective and could be done by volunteers. The area would need to be re-seeded and would need maintenance in order to stand up to cattle use, with a redefinition being carried out every few years. Mr Kew spoke to a slide showing how ditches affected draining. A survey would confirm how effective the installation of ditches along the east and north boundary would be.

	<p>A further option would be to introduce some vegetation into the local area, which would help to dry out the soil. A hedge along the eastern boundary was an option, although this could interact with the established drainage pipes. Potentially, a hedge could be added along the top of the farmer's field, if the landowner so agreed. It was confirmed that the existing land drainage started a little way in from the edge of the field. Mr Kew confirmed that stakeholders such as the Environment Agency and Wiltshire Council would need to be consulted in the event that any measures impacted the water levels in the Brook. A meeting might therefore be needed to discuss this with relevant agencies and landowners. Members discussed whether any improvements could be made to the existing drainage and it was felt that this was performing effectively. The Chair suggested that a meeting be arranged with those present and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council to take this discussion forward, then invite the landowners to a subsequent meeting. Further decisions on improvement plans would therefore be deferred until this issue had been explored in more detail.</p> <p>a. The Chair asked whether members wished to make any decisions on grounds maintenance work. Weed killing was discussed and it was agreed to undertake this work as part of the continuing maintenance programme, which was included in the operating budget. Turf nutrition was discussed and felt to have had a benefit during the last year. It was therefore agreed to proceed with this work. Aeration was discussed and the Chair reported that the FA were likely to be keen for this to be progressed regularly. Mr Kew remarked that aeration would have no effect on saturated soil, but confirmed it to be worthwhile when the ground is in the right state. The Chair confirmed that this would be scheduled for later in the year when the saturation levels were reduced. Top dressing was discussed and although it was felt to have been of benefit it was felt that the benefit was less obvious due to the condition of the ground. It was noted that this work was expensive and the Chair suggested that this could be carried out on the junior pitch in 2020. Seeding was not felt to be needed due to the improvements which had been carried out on the ground. The agreed work was noted to be a total of £4,600. It was noted that external grant funding would be sought, with the hope that this would meet 50% of the costs. It was proposed by Mr Sharland, seconded by Mr Lloyd and resolved to proceed with the order for £4,600 of work subject to grant funding allocation, which would be sought as soon as practicable.</p>
BRG76	<p><b>BRGC Events 2020</b></p> <p>The Chair asked for confirmation that the Committee wished to proceed with a Quiz Night, which the Chair suggested be arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> September. This was agreed and would be discussed at more detail at a subsequent meeting of the Management Working Group.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that there would be no village fete, although there would be a church fete at the beginning of Bratton Week. The bottle stand only generated an income of £150, whereas a good Quiz Night could generate £600. It was therefore decided to focus on the Quiz Night.</p>
BRG77	<p><b>Member Reports</b> – None.</p>

BRG78	<p><b>Issues from Clubs</b></p> <p>Mr Kew reported on Bratton CC – maintenance on the cricket nets would be carried out in the next financial year when the weather improved, which would cost a maximum of £50.00. The Chair confirmed this would be covered from the minor maintenance operating budget. Fixtures were good. Advice was sought on grants available to fund the cricket kit. The Chair suggested an application to the Westbury Area Board and Mr Sharland would write to the Chair of the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mr Sharland reported on the ECB membership and his wish to see Bratton CC affiliated to the ECB at a cost of £50.00. He asked for £25.00 to be contributed from the BRG Committee and the Chair directed him to seek alternative funding sources as this could not be met from Committee funds.</p>
BRG79	<p><b>Date and location of next Committee meeting</b></p> <p>The Clerk would arrange an informal meeting to discuss drainage options, as detailed above. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee would be scheduled for September 2020 and would be arranged nearer the time.</p>

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7. 45 pm.