

Gifted Field Community Task Group

Meeting 7th February 2018

In attendance: Wendy Soilleux, Ron Williams, Barbara Shore, Jonathan Snowden, Bob Prosser, Richard Laing, Nigel Shore, Dan Forrest, Geoff Davies, Debbie Parker, Laurie White, Paul Wargent, Jonathan Jackson

1. Apologies - Dave Matthews, Fiona Matthews, Simon Parker, Glen Southorn, Dom Robertson, Malcolm Harris, Fiona Bates, Brian Bates, Andy Hughes
2. Minutes of previous meeting – read beforehand and agreed as accurate
3. Matters arising – letter from Donor previously circulated stipulating need for football pitch as this was the main reason they bought the field. Acknowledgement that needs Cricket pitch as well to make it viable. Reminder that while stipulations from Donor have led discussions on the layout of the Gifted Field, virtually all other viable suggestions have been incorporated so this gift will benefit the whole community
4. Update on Timing of Gift – Reserved Matters will be approved in 4-6 weeks unless last minute hitch
5. Gifted Field proposal
 - a. Final layout presented and meets main requirements
 - b. Exact detail to be confirmed by survey and civil engineer advice
 - c. Outside edges and current tree layout will provide space/can be adapted for other suggestions. To be confirmed once landscaping complete
 - d. Addition of small structure for storage and spectator comfort
 - e. Reiteration that main area is open green space for general use by all community for most of the time
 - f. Other elements included in current Village Hall/Playing Fields site such as MUGA, additional car parking, entrance widening, additional changing rooms, extension of Pavilion social room
 - g. Comment from Dan Forrest that if no formal wayleave for electricity poles then can ask Western Power to remove them. To be considered as start negotiations to bury the lines
 - h. Request for access from main road but need to consider safety and also desire to retain hedge.
 - i. Final vehicle access point and pedestrian access to be agreed with Stalls Lane owner
 - j. Zipwire unlikely to fit next to football pitch as need hedge cutting access but to be confirmed.
 - k. Grateful thanks for Richard Laing and his team for pulling plans together
6. Other land available that may be included
 - a. Land at Bartestree Crossroads. Covenant stipulates no ‘buildings’ of any sort. Meeting decided best to focus on hard path only and to tidy it up. This will ensure no conflict with Church and minimal management. Radway Nurseries will help with this.
 - b. Play area at Village Hall – various requests have been submitted to add or change to what is there, including for a climbing structure. School providing further ideas.
 - c. Play area and grass bank in Frome Park
 - i. 11 responses to request for ideas, split between those who do not want to encourage more activity and those who want to improve what is there
 - ii. General feeling is not to expand actual fenced play ground, preserve trees (but no acknowledgement of maintenance needed or use of fruit!)

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- iii. Advice to be taken from Odd Job Octopus (Wendy Souilleux and Barbara Shore)
 - iv. Paul Wargent has also had offer of free equipment
 - v. Discussions with Herefordshire Council over long term ownership/responsibility
 - d. Grassed areas either side of Village Hall Entrance way to be considered, possibly for dog exercising, but a bit small and would not want to detract from visual benefits
 - e. Current Playing Fields and Village Hall area – see attached map
 - f. Old Playground area – Joey’s Place. Need to ascertain ownership and current situation and how to avoid abuse suffered in the past (**J Jackson to enquire from Hugh Morris**)
 - g. Wooded area at bottom of new development, being retained by current owners. This will have minimal management/formal use to enable natural environment to benefit. Opportunity for discussion on Forest School if School is interested (to approach directly).
7. No other suggestions. However reiterate that always open to new suggestions, as has been the case since Playing Fields Association was created over 20years ago.
 8. Needs a group that covers all areas and can provide support to all interested parties. As can be seen from the attached summary of the Playing Fields Association (PFA) all the community are members and the management Committee is open to any who are prepared to make an active and participatory contribution. It was agreed by the meeting that the PFA would be the most suitable umbrella organisation to take the implementation forward and to co-ordinate the on-going management.
 9. Proposal to Parish Council. See attached.
 10. Next Steps
 - a. Submit proposal to Parish Council (other Steps below are on assumption Parish Council accepts Proposal)
 - b. PFA to ask for community involvement to implement Proposal, focusing on specific tasks and skills.
 - c. Formal lease to be arranged
 - d. Community to be updated through Parish Council and notices/Parish Magazine.
 - e. Parish Council to determine planning requirements by submitting ‘pre-application’ with PFA support.
 - f. Establish potential cashflow from various s106 funds (**J Jackson to action**)
 11. Any other business – None
 12. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed if necessary (if PC accept proposal GFCTG has fulfilled its remit so technically does not need to meet again and next steps will pass to PFA, Parish Council and Village Hall)

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The consensus recommendation of the Gifted Field Community Task Group is that

- the Parish Council accepts the Gifted Field from the Donors as per the S106 agreement as part of Planning Approval P143270/0
- the attached list of facilities should be implemented, on the Gifted Field as well as on the existing Playing Fields and other sites in the Parish
- implementation of the new facilities on the Gifted Field and on the existing Playing Fields should be executed by the Bartestree and Lugwardine Playing Fields Association (PFA)* under the terms of a long term lease from the Parish Council , subject to any limitations of funding and practicalities; any major variation being subject to the approval of the Parish Council and with provision for the Parish Council to terminate the lease if the facilities as outlined in the attached plans are substantially changed or not implemented
- implementation on other sites should be directly under the control of the Parish Council
- entrance works to the Village Hall site, changing rooms at the Village Hall, and new car parking, should be executed by the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and PFA in co-operation
- volunteers willing to participate in developing the new facilities should be welcomed. For the development of the new facilities under its remit, the PFA should establish a sub-committee of volunteers
- there should be co-ordination of fundraising among the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and PFA to maximize the opportunities.

** Please see Addendum for a summary of the PFA's mission, constitution and membership.*

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Facilities to be implemented

Reference should be made to the attached maps. Please note that the maps are indicative but final layout will be dependent on detailed topography and landscaping potential, and all facilities are dependent on raising appropriate funds

- On the Gifted Field
 - Football pitch
 - Cricket pitch
 - Jogging/cycling track
 - Benches/seating/picnic tables/chess tables
 - Outdoor Gym equipment
 - Play equipment for older children
 - Landscaping to include trees, meadow flowers and screening to neighbouring properties
 - Small building for storage and spectator shelter
 - Re-routing of overhead cables
 - Information boards incorporating wildlife and environmental information
- On the existing Playing Fields
 - Multi Use Games Area in place of existing community football goal
 - Zip Wire
 - Extension to Pavilion social room
 - Pedestrian access from new changing rooms to Gifted Field
- On the Village Hall site
 - New changing rooms adjacent to Village Hall to include public access toilets
 - Additional car parking space to replace old cricket nets
 - Alterations to Play Ground
 - Widening of Village Hall entrance way and road to Stalls Farm
 - Active use of land at entrance to Village Hall
- In other areas in the Parish
 - Improvement of Glebe land by Bartestree Cross Roads within constraints of covenants
 - Improvement to Play Ground facilities at Frome Park
 - Investigate possible uses of 'Joey's Place' (off Wilcroft Estate) (subject to ownership and permissions)

Reference should be made to these maps:

- Gifted Field Landscape Master Plan Feb 2018
- Bartestree Playing Fields additions Feb 2018

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*** About Bartestree and Lugwardine Playing Fields Association (PFA)**

The PFA was formed in 1995, as a result of several large public meetings, to create and manage the fields on either side of the new Village Hall which was about to be built. It is a registered charity with a formal Constitution, which states the purpose as:

The objects of the PFA shall be to provide for the inhabitants of Bartestree and Lugwardine and the neighbourhood (hereinafter called "the area of benefit"), in the interests of social welfare, facilities for recreation and leisure-time occupation, for the purpose of relaxation and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

It is important to know that everyone living in the Parish is formally a Member of the PFA, with a right to vote and elect the Committee:

Membership of the PFA shall be open without elective process to all persons living within the parish of Bartestree and Lugwardine and shall be of two kinds:

- a) Full Members (aged eighteen and over) who shall have the right to vote at General Meetings; and
- b) Junior Members (under the age of eighteen). Junior Members shall not have the right to vote at General Meetings but may elect from among themselves two representatives to the Committee who may act as observers but shall not have the right to vote or to act as Full Members.

Every year in October there is a well-advertized AGM at which a Committee is elected:

The PFA shall be managed by an Executive Committee of members (hereinafter called "the Committee") which shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in each year and shall consist of:

- four elected Honorary Officers;
- not more than five Full Members of the PFA;
- not more than two persons nominated by the Parish Council of Bartestree and Lugwardine;
- not more than one person nominated by Bartestree and Lugwardine Village Hall Committee.

In the early years, the PFA committee raised large amounts of money from many individual donors in the Parish (from £1 to £500) and obtained many grants. But more important was the huge personal effort and manpower put in by so many local people to create this facility. That has continued – all the management and labour for maintaining the fields is voluntary. The only cost to the Parish is mowing the peripheral non-sport parts. Everything else comes from the sports users themselves.

It is important to recognize that the PFA should not be conflated with just the Football and Cricket Clubs. The members of those Clubs have been responsible for most of the hard work and created the facilities, provided coaching and run teams for the benefit of hundreds of children and adults. But the PFA is an independent entity, intended to protect and further the interests of the Parish while fostering its objectives. It is a respected Charity with a long history of sound management of large financial undertakings, such as building the Morris Pavilion, which is vital for fundraising.

The PFA has in the past run various other activities, including basketball, volleyball, junior athletics, and boules. All have faded due to lack of local people prepared to make an effort. Cricket and football have succeeded precisely because there are dedicated local people making huge voluntary efforts, not because of any bias of the PFA. The PFA also planned to create a running track and outdoor gym on the existing fields, but that was put on hold once the Gifted Field became a possible alternative location.

The PFA Committee will welcome the widest possible participation in this exciting new opportunity for the Parish.