

# **LURGASHALL RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Lurgashall Village Hall**

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Buckley, Tony & Pat  
Caird, Malcolm  
Clark, John & Elizabeth  
Cooper, Ray  
Fairston, Miles  
Flint, Judy  
Harden, Joe & Irene  
Hardie, Alistair  
Lawson, Jacquie  
Martin-Jenkins, David & Anthea  
Meyer, Stephen & Erica  
Nicholes, Cathy  
Ohlson, Chris  
Read, Paul  
Reed, Laurence & Gina  
Tate, Andy  
Vaughan, Joanne

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Chairman, Malcolm Caird, welcomed all those attending the meeting and reminded them of the purpose of evening, which was first to conduct the formal proceedings of an AGM and secondly to report on the activities in the field in 2016 and outline plans for 2017.

He reminded the meeting briefly of LRA's history: the Company had been formed in June 2012 and became a charity that August; the field had been purchased in July 2013; this had been financed by a series of grants from public bodies (£37,000) and donations from 26 households totalling £66,805. Membership had been opened to Lurgashall residents in late 2013, and there were now 156 adult and 30 junior members.

He read out the Company's objects, and referred to the Company's Special Documents, as adopted by the Board, being the Articles of Association, the Restrictions Document (restricting the uses to which the field may be put), the Membership Policy, and the Governance Policy. To change any of these Special Documents would require a vote of 75% of the Members attending a General Meeting. He reminded those present that these documents are all published on [www.lurgashall.org](http://www.lurgashall.org).

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman said that he had received apologies for absence from the following Members: Maggie Wilding, Peter Hayes, Iola Christian, Andrew and Sue Lambot, David Godfray, Warwick and MaryAnne Cox, Tanya and Chloe Fairston, Jeremy and Karen Bonnett, James and Saffron Nugent, Simon and Holly Monhemius and Sally Hardie.

## **1. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2014**

The Chairman introduced the Company's Accounts for the year to 31 December 2016. These had been published on the Village website, and copies were available at the meeting. The Chairman enlarged on various matters in the Director's Report and explained the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet. He particularly referred to Canine Capers (which had raised £522) and said that since the accounting date another fund-raising event had been held, the Quiz Night, which had been very popular and which had raised £918

The Chairman invited questions from the Members.

Stephen Meyer noted that a considerable amount had been spent during the year on the improvements to the entrance and asked why these costs were not depreciated in the accounts. The Chairman said that the view had been taken that as these works had been carried out as part of the agreement with the Leconfield Estate for the grant of the right of way, they formed part of the permanent real estate of the LRA – i.e. the field – which was not subject to a depreciation charge.

Tony Buckley asked whether there was a standard charge for the use of the field. The Chairman advised that the charge was £50 for permitted parking and that a charge of £100 was made to the Pantiles Players for their use of the field for camping when they came to the village.

David Martin-Jenkins asked what was the amount of the audit fee. The Chairman replied that there was no fee because there was no audit or independent examination of the accounts. He explained that this was not required by the Charity Commission for charities with an annual income below £25,000. At last year's AGM it had been resolved by the Members that unless in any year the income exceeded £10,000 (2016 - £2,590) there would be no need for an examination. The Directors had considered the matter further and confirmed the decision and the situation would be kept under review.

There were no further questions.

It was proposed by David Martin-Jenkins and seconded by Ray Cooper that the financial statements of the Company for the year to 31 December 2016 together with the report of the Directors be received and adopted. On a show of hands this Resolution was passed *nem con*.

## **2. – 4. RETIREMENT AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Chairman reported that in accordance with the Articles three Directors were required to retire annually. Those longest in office are Jeremy Bonnett and Miles Fairston, and of the remaining Directors Jacque Lawson had volunteered to retire. All three would stand for re-election

The Chairman proposed that the resolutions to reappoint them be taken together and this was agreed. On the combined Resolution being put it was passed *nem con* on a show of hands.

That completed the formal business of the Annual General Meeting.

## **5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE FIELD**

The Chairman reminded Members that a Public Meeting had been held in October 2016 which had been well attended by 50 people, including 10 juniors. This meeting had expressed overwhelming support for the installation of some sporting facilities, particularly focusing on two possibilities –

- A hard surface playing area for low level, self-managed play, where children can turn up and play e.g. 3-a-side football, netball, etc.
- A tennis court

Whilst these were really two separate concepts, it would be possible to combine the two.

He reported that the Board had considered these ideas and had decided to start the planning process. However, he emphasised that no specific proposal had been agreed upon at this stage.

Jeremy Bonnett and John Clark had been leading the process, and he invited John Clark to explain the present position, which he did as follows:

Following the Public Meeting and the clear mandate to press ahead, a request had been made to the South Downs National Park Authority for Pre-Application Planning Advice. Very helpful and detailed advice had been received. Broadly the SDNPA was supportive on planning grounds subject to a demonstration of need, detailed location, a landscape and visual impact assessment and consideration of ecology and trees. However, they had also consulted Sport England who were concerned that any development should not interfere with the ability to play 11-a-side football on the field, were insistent about the type of surface and that it should otherwise be built in accordance with Sport England's high specification technical guidance, and said that LRA should consider lighting (which SDNPA would oppose!) and a Community Use Agreement.

The problem was that, as the Chairman had already mentioned, this was really not one project but two, which would normally have been funded differently. LRA itself would fund a general purpose playing surface for the youth of the village, but if a tennis court were requested, although LRA would be pleased to facilitate and to provide the land, the construction costs would have to be raised outside LRA.

The costs would be approximately as follows:

- To build a basic tennis court - £30k plus VAT
- To build a multi-use games area to full specification - £45k plus VAT

One solution might therefore be to see whether those wishing for a tennis court might be prepared to form a 'tennis club' and raise the necessary money for a court (2/3rds of the project cost) with LRA funding the difference to upgrade it to the full multi-use specification (1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the project cost). After allowing for VAT and also for grants, which should be available if the specification were right, the project cost should be in the region of £30k

The members were asked if anyone present would be interested in helping to form and run a tennis club, but nobody was forthcoming. This possibility was debated by the meeting. Stephen Meyer was opposed to the idea of a separate 'club', and felt that the project should be kept within LRA. Laurence Reed agreed and said that he felt that such a 'club' would be divisive. David Martin-Jenkins wondered whether the enthusiasm shown at the Public Meeting had evaporated, and Anthea Martin-Jenkins said that the tennis courts in Fernhurst were under-used. Judy Flint emphasised that it would be important to take account of the views of neighbours. Some members wished to know the location or likely location of the MUGA, but this question was unresolved.

There was considerable discussion about the way forward and about the terms of the resolution, but it was eventually proposed and seconded that the meeting:

“Support the Board's proposals for a multi-use games area and authorise the Board to take all reasonable steps to achieve the necessary planning consents and funding to achieve this”.

Upon this being put to the meeting, the resolution was duly passed on a show of hands, with one person present voting against, two proxy votes cast against and three abstentions.

## 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### 6.1 Report on Activities and Proposals

The Chairman reported in accordance with the requirements of the Restrictions Document upon activity in the Jubilee Field during 2016 and on proposals for 2017, as follows:

**Maintenance:** The programme of maintenance has been continued. Jonathan Wright has mowed the field regularly and the quality of the grass is improving. There has been greater use of the small football goals as the grass is so much shorter. Hedge trimming has been carried out by Mike Doggart, which had particularly improved the hedge adjacent to the road. The access to the field was improved and surfaced with Fittleworth stone.

**Activities and Events:** Canine Capers was again a success as a low key fun day for the village, and it raised £522. This will be repeated in 2017 (Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>). A cricket net has been installed with a concrete base and matting carpet. This is proving popular with the children of the village as well as being a training resource for the Cricket Club

**Parking:** The roped off area had been used on 21 Saturdays and 14 Sundays for between 12 and 20 cars on each occasion. Parking had also been available in the Field on four other occasions – the Fete (the field was full), two weddings (30 – 40 cars each time), and the Pantiles Players camping in July. All this had saved the Green from very serious parking problems. In 2017 the Board anticipated that the pattern would be broadly similar.

### 6.2 Questions and comments from Members

The Chairman invited questions or comments from Members.

Ray Cooper expressed the thanks of the Cricket Club for the new cricket net, which was in use and proving popular.

Anthea Martin-Jenkins thanked the Board for the work done to improve the surface of the field and also the new access which was a great improvement.

Tony Buckley suggested that the Board might consider charging an annual subscription to Members to improve income and cash-flow. The Chairman said that this would be put to the Board but pointed out that all Members had joined on the basis of Life Membership for a one-off payment.

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.

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**Malcom Caird**  
**Chairman**