

LURGASHALL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 29TH APRIL 2019 in the Ark, Noah's Ark

1. Introduction :
 - 1.1 The Chairman, Joanne Vaughan, welcomed all those attending the meeting and reminded them of the main purposes of the meeting. This included conducting the formal proceedings of AGM, approving accounts and electing trustees. Also reporting on activities in the field in 2018, and outlining plans for 2019.
 - 1.2 Miles Fairston was to take notes for minutes, to be published on www.lurgashall.org
2. Apologies were received from Paul and Di Read, Anthony Crandon, Laurence and Gina Reed, Roland Shepherd, Warwick and Maryanne Cox.
3. The minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved unanimously.
4. Summary of the past year :
 - 4.1 In terms of maintenance of the field, Jonathan Wright had continued to do this to a high standard with a program of harrowing, rolling, mowing and hedge cutting. This gave an improved surface, with the 5-a-side goals being used on many weekends and in the summer by children/families.
 - 4.2 The field and in particular the designated roped off area continued to be used for parking for cricket, the fete and weddings and funerals. For the Pantile Players in July and the South Africa Day event the field was used for both camping and parking.
 - 4.3 The cricket net was used by children until it was blown over in storms in the winter. Gerry Fry had since been very helpful and assisted with repairing the metal structure.
 - 4.4 In terms of fundraising this was important to try to balance the books, and in 2018 a quiz night in the village hall had proved popular and was the main fundraiser.
 - 4.5 There had been a follow up meeting between directors and J. Saunders of Chichester Council further to the rejection of LRA's MUGA planning application. SDNP and the council had run through their many objections, including the size and scale and urban impact of the proposed development. Overall the council viewed Jubilee Field as an important transitional space between the village green and the wider countryside, with conservation given precedence. The council's advice was that it would take a demonstrable need for such a development for them to consider whether this provided a counterbalance to their findings. It was also advised that they only respected the results of unprompted surveys, and thus an open-ended LRA questionnaire was put together.
5. Resolution 2 & 3 – election and re-election of Directors :
 - 5.1 Resolution 2 : The members unanimously approved the appointment of co-opted Directors, Stephen Cooper; Henry Coghlan and Simon Monhemius to the Board.
 - 5.2 Resolution 3 : The members unanimously agreed to reappoint Chris Ohlson as a director of the company in line with Director rotation rules.

6. Treasurers Report from Stephen Cooper & Resolution 1 – approval of 2018 accounts and Directors report :
 - 6.1 Malcolm Caird was thanked for all his previous work on LRA accounts.
 - 6.2 The quiz had raised £730 and money from the fete and parish council had added £950. The main costs for the field were about £2,000 plus insurance. Hence the normal costs showed a loss of about £500. The planning application costs were additional to this at about £1,600.
 - 6.3 No audit had been conducted in line with previous recent years, where expenditure had been less than £10,000. Anthea Martin-Jenkins queried whether there should be an audit with possible local help sought.
 - 6.4 The 2018 accounts were approved unanimously.

7. Plans for 2019 :
 - 7.1 In terms of field maintenance the plan was to continue to improve turf for football. Ad hoc parking would continue.
 - 7.2 The cricket net would finish being reassembled soon.
 - 7.3 Andy Tate advised that for dog poo disposal one of the bins around the green would be repositioned closer to the field, so this could be used. This would incur no cost, whereas a special bin for the purpose on the field would have cost around £600 to £700 per annum to be maintained by the council.
 - 7.4 In terms of fundraising for 2019 there had already been a successful Quiz Night, raising about £500. There were potential plans for further events already including a wine tasting night and Canine Capers (though volunteers would be needed to help organise this). Another idea was a cycle event.
 - 7.5 Chris Ohlson summarised plans to try to increase LRA membership, including possibly trying to raise awareness at the fete.
 - 7.6 In terms of field usage, after guidance last year from South Downs National Park and from the Chichester recreation officer, the new committee decided to ask parishioners for their input with a questionnaire to members, which was also available in the village shop for non-members, with leaflets sent additionally around Greengates.
 - 7.7 The questionnaire received 47 responses, which was OK but a relatively moderate response bearing in mind there was quite a lot of effort made to get people to respond. It was really useful to gather information on what people do already and where they go to do it. However, regarding the question, ‘what sort of club or activity would you like to be involved with in the village?’, there did not appear to be any great appetite for anything in particular. Respondents were keen to see cricket on the green and for there to be an active cricket club, mentioned by about five respondents, tennis was mentioned four times, bowls a couple of times, yoga, pilates in the village hall, and table tennis. By far the largest recreational activity mentioned was walking/rambling/ dog walking, by 41 people and they mostly undertook this in the Lurgashall area, so hopefully the field is a useful resource for this community. 17 people in the village said they would volunteer to help with activities, 23 said they would be willing to help with fund raising and 10 people said they would be happy to help with mowing/upkeep of the field.
 - 7.8 LRA directors also had a meeting with the Chichester District Council recreation officer, Sarah Peyman, which was helpful. She highlighted some of the things other small villages such as ourselves have been doing recently, in particular activities for older people such as walking football and also some of the other

more popular things at the moment such as outdoor gym equipment. There was also the possibility of a surfaced path for walking or jogging around the field, which could also benefit those less steady on their feet. LRA would continue to investigate options for the future.

7.9 LRA also wished to look into setting up more activities on the field, such as summer holiday activities. There was the possibility of increasing the pitch usage, for example by a football club youth team, or to get 5 a-side football up and running. Concerns were raised by members regarding the costs to set this up in terms of additional field work and a requirement for changing rooms for matches. However the field could be suitable for training, and the cricket pavilion might also be available for changing facilities. Contact could be made with the local football association for further advice.

8. Any other business and AGM conclusion

8.1 Joanne Vaughan as chairman concluded that while LRA would continue to look into ideas for further recreational activities, the initial priority as a committee was to ensure that we are on a sound financial footing going forward, with enough fund raising to cover our maintenance costs.

8.2 Anthea Martin-Jenkins gave a vote of thanks to all the directors for their voluntary work over the past year.