**BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Notes of special meeting of Beckbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30 p.m.**

**to discuss arrangements for Beckbury Playing Field and the approach by Albrighton Football Club for permission to use the Playing Field**

**Present: -**

Beckbury PC Beckbury Badgers FC

David Cummings Chair Gary Wellburn Coach

James Paice Kerry Steventon Welfare Officer

Matt Wild Shirley Harris Past Treasurer

David Tooth

Peter Hopkins

Peter Gibbins

**1. Apologies:** David De Courcy

**2. Declarations of interest:** Nothing declared

**3. Beckbury Playing Field:** Members had invited Gary Wellburn and two associates to

this meeting to decide on the future arrangements for the playing field and the approach from Albrighton FC. The latter had been formalised in a letter emailed to the PC on 20.12.23, a copy of which is attached to these notes.

Gary summarised his key objections to the Albrighton proposals: -

1. The existing football pitch will not be playable with potentially 4 teams using it
2. The fixtures for under 14 teams is arranged at short notice by the football league and it would not be possible to coordinate the use of the pitch between BBFC & Albrighton FC.
3. Overall, he considered the proposals “unsustainable”.
4. Gary indicated that in this situation BBFC may have to consider alternative pitches and that they would take their goal posts with them.
5. He also emphasised that the current costs of marking out the pitch is paid for by BBFC.

The Chair noted that Gary was recording the meeting and commented that recording of Parish Council meetings is not permitted.

Shirley added to the above explaining the work that the BBFC had done to establish the football pitch over the last 20 years including the purchase of new goal posts.

David C responded by explaining that the Parish Council had originally rented the playing field from the Diocese and then agreed to purchase the field at a cost of £17k. The cost of maintaining the field has progressively increased and this year the cost of Reid Glaze cutting the grass has increased to £220/month, so it will be over £2kpa.i.e., 25% of the annual Parish Precept (budget). In the past BBFC had contributed to this cost via monies donated from the Beckbury Village Challenge but this has not been for some years, and it seems unlikely that there will be another one. David T added that the Playing Field Association and BBFC had originally been charged with raising funds for the upkeep of the field, but this had never happened, other than the Challenge donation monies.

Peter H commented that in his experience, with many years of involvement with sports clubs the clubs had always contributed to the upkeep of the facilities.

David & Peter G suggested that a preferred solution to the problems identified by Gary (above), could be to establish a 2nd pitch, allowing BBFC exclusive use of the existing pitch and avoiding matches to be played on both pitches at the same time. BBFC were still not prepared to seriously consider this, and Kerry noted it would be difficult to guarantee that Albrighton didn’t stray on to “their” pitch and that a formal risk assessment would be necessary.

Peter G added that Albrighton used an app “Teamup” to coordinate booking pitches, and this could be used by both parties.

James also proposed that the situation could be helped by limiting the age group e.g. to under 13s.

Matt asked whether the Parish Council could see the accounts for BBFC to which Gary agreed to organise.

**4. Conclusion**

The meeting was concluded by Gary asking for a clarification of the PCs proposals to take to the BBFC committee, and the PC members agreed to report back after further discussion of the objections raised.

Gary stated that BBFC had finished use of the field now until training is due to start again in July.

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| Text Box | **ALBRIGHTON FOOTBALL CLUB**Logo  Description automatically generated  **Founded 1992**  Grounds: Newhouse Lane & Loak Road |  |

Dear Peter

Apologies for the delay in our proposal, but after a recent committee meeting.... here it is!

We would initially like to use your existing pitch for three of our teams (two boys and 1 girl, all under 13's). This would be as soon as possible to alleviate the strain on our Loak Road pitch.

The girls play on a Saturday morning and the boys Sunday. Obviously there would be potentially three teams on Sunday with Beckbury, but we would notify the league to try and avoid this and limit it to two matches maximum.

We would need to supply corner flags, goal nets, respect barrier and a portaloo. We would also need to work out a rota with Beckbury for marking the pitch.

When the clocks go forward at the end of March, we would then like to use the pitch for training of an evening. This generally starts at 6pm and ends at 8pm. We would be guided by yourselves on how often, but ideally it would be five evenings a week for at least an hour.

As far as the Parish council is concerned, we would ask you to ensure that Gary (Beckbury Badgers) is on board with whatever you decide. We are aware this could inconvenience him, and he would have to communicate with us, to allow everything to run smoothly.

We use an app called "Teamup" which we use for all our pitches. It works well as a pitch booking calendar and can be viewed by anyone with a link.

With the above in mind, could you suggest a fee payable to yourselves please? This could be a one-off fee until September 2023 (start of the 2023-24 season) or a monthly standing order?

Long term (next season 2023-24) we would like to explore marking out another two pitches to the side of the existing pitch. This would be a 5 and 7 aside size pitch. To do this, it would need a bit of investment to get these up and running, including sets of corner flags, respect barrier, goals for both pitches and possibly an iso container to store it all in. With this level of investment, we would like some guarantee from yourselves on how long we can use your facility.

I hope this all makes sense, and you have enough information for the council meeting.

Have a great Christmas and speak in the new year

Kind regards Gareth Whittaker 07769973492