

Minutes of a meeting between Lydiard Millicent Parish Council and Shaw Football Club, 7.00pm Friday June 17th 2011, Jubilee Club House

Present : Karen Prictor, Tom Pepperall, Alan Pflieger, Tim Blackmore. Karen apologised for Margaret Rivers' absence due to a recent bereavement

Tom Pepperall began by explaining that LMPC has received several complaints from parishioners about the problems caused on several occasions by excessive parking on the roads around the Recreation Field. They had reminded us that the Rec/ Field had been given to residents for their benefit, but felt that SFC had taken that benefit to their disadvantage. The problem seems to have occurred on days when the Football Club were hosting a significant number of matches within a concentrated period of time. He further explained that the purpose of the meeting was to seek SFC's co-operation in finding ways that such parking can be better managed, so that a suggested reduction in the number of games may be avoided.

Karen explained that there were two weekends when the problem had been particularly acute, but that semi-finals were unlikely to take place again at JCH. Matches involving the more junior teams do attract a high level of support from family and friends of the players, which the older teams do not.

Discussion took place about possible changes to the scheduling of matches, the use of car sharing and the difficulty of fitting in the required number of matches by the dates scheduled by the League. Karen offered to investigate the likelihood of SFC contributing, with the aid of a grant from the Football Foundation, to the cost of extending the existing Recreation Field car park. However, such a grant could affect our rights in managing the field.

Gerald Kent of SFC joined the group and further discussion took place around possible changes to the time periods between matches – something that could be possible towards the end of the season when daylight lasts sufficiently to enable a later finishing time for matches. Gerald explained that the club had learned from the last season's experience and would be able to use such flexibility to ease the problem. The club offered to organise additional signs to encourage more responsible parking and it was proposed to eliminate the penalty shoot outs which delayed the departure of teams after their matches, and to ensure that the shorter matches were scheduled early in the day. Councillor Pflieger suggested that at the start of the next season LMPC would monitor the situation to ensure the effectiveness of the new measures.

The value of re-drafting the Agreement on the running of the facility between LMPC, SFC, & LM Cricket Club was discussed, and Tim offered to review the old and proposed draft, bearing in mind the concerns over the suggested shortening of tenures, and produce a new Agreement for consideration.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and for their desire to actively seek a resolution of last season's problems.

Another meeting was not arranged, pending the review of 2011/12 arrangements.

The meeting closed just after 8pm.