

Coldharbour Sports and Social Club  
Minutes of Annual Meeting  
held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 8 p.m. in the John Venus Hall, Coldharbour

Present: Club President and Chair: Revd. Tony Berry (TB)

Directors: Bruce Dalglish (BD), John Hopper (JH), Stuart McLachlan (SMcL)

Sports and Social Committee: Mark Donnison (MD), Nadia Hayes (NH), Mary Hustings(MH), Stewart Johnston (SJ), Dave Mir (DM), Sue Smith (SS), Garath Symonds (GS)

Cricket Club: Stewart Johnston (SJ)

Bonfire Society: Alan Smith (AS)

From the village: Lucy Botting, John Delliere, Di (DH) and Barry Hitchcock, Bernard Jupe (BJ), Tiggs and Eliot Morton, Peter Tindall

1. Club President's Welcome: TB opened the meeting
2. Apologies for absence: Debby Chapman, Penny Darbyshire, Allison Goodliffe, Alan Hustings, Peter Mason, Sophie Parker (National Trust), Helen Potter, Nicky Scott (National Trust-NS), Toby Ward

3. Minutes from the Previous Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017:

The minutes were approved. Proposed by DM, seconded by SMcL. Signed by TB.

4. Election of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary:

Retirements: Debby Chapman (Club Chair) stood down in October. Garath Symonds has been Acting Chair of the Club since December. Mark Donnison is standing down as Treasurer of the Club. He will remain on the Sports and Social Committee. Mary Hustings is standing down as Secretary of the Sports and Social Committee.

Elections:

. Garath Symonds was unanimously elected as Chair of Coldharbour Sports and Social Club. Proposed by Sue Smith. Seconded by Dave Mir.

. Bernard Jupe was unanimously elected as Treasurer of Coldharbour Sports and Social Club. Proposed by Nadia Hayes. Seconded by John Hopper.

. Tiggs Morton was unanimously elected as Secretary of the Sports and Social Committee. Proposed by Sue Smith. Seconded by Garath Symonds.

5. Re-election/election of Committee Members:

Retirements: Nadia Hayes and Su Jones

Re-election: MD, JH, SJ, SMcL, DM and SS were unanimously re-elected en bloc to the Sports and Social Committee. Proposed by Peter Tindall. Seconded by John Delliere.

TB proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the village to Debby Chapman, all retiring members and newly elected members, seconded by DM and JH, and endorsed with thanks by those present.

6. Financial Report (MD) and Insurance (SMcL):

MD presented consolidated income and expenditure totals as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Consolidated income increased from £ 23.6k to £ 25.3k, of which £ 7,817 relates to the Cricket Club (2016 £ 9,042); £ 11,328 to the Bonfire Society (2016 £ 10,877) and £ 6,148 to the Village Society (2016 £ 3,320). The Village Society balance includes £ 4, 878 received from insurance claims for damage and theft at the pavilion, of which £ 930 has been

spent to date on repairs. Events in 2017 generated income of £ 1,523 for the Village Society. The accounts include a £ 384 Restricted Fund for money raised and held for maintenance of the village defibrillator. The Bonfire Society donated £ 2k to the Village Society. The donation is not reflected in the Village Society year end accounts due to late banking. It is held in reserve for the solar power project discussed in Item 11. Capel Parish Council's annual £ 1k grant towards the Pavilion funded maintenance costs, including gutter repairs.

Insurance renewal for the Club and the Pavilion is due 1<sup>st</sup> April. Quotes are being obtained. The premium is likely to increase from 2017 (£ 921) because of the recent history of break ins and theft of the generator.

In 2018 the Club will be raising up to £ 20k to fund solar power at the Pavilion. BJ noted that the Club is proposing to appoint an external auditor to review and advise on the accounts for the life of the project.

TB thanked MD for managing the Club's finances during the year and for producing accounts for the meeting.

## 7. Social Events Report(SS):

### 2017 events:

- . Spring BBQ in May. A nice opening to the village events season. Poor weather affected attendance.
- . Open air cinema ('Grease') at the cricket pitch on the Friday of the August Bank Holiday weekend was an excellent, and very successful, alternative to a Shakespeare play. (GB Theatre cancelled their 2017 tour).
- . Village Day 27<sup>th</sup> August followed the usual format and was well supported.
- . Hog Roast 30<sup>th</sup> September was a good event that just broke even. It is a lot of work and costs are high. A change of format was suggested in subsequent discussion: for example, hosting it in a barn to replace the marquee and make the event more weather proof; starting and finishing later to attract more adults.
- . Quiz Night 27<sup>th</sup> October – an annual event which is very popular and successful.
- . The Club took over Final Fridays at the Pavilion towards the end of the Summer.
- . The Live Nativity in December was very well supported. It was run through the pub, but will be repeated as a Club event in 2018.

### Other 2018 Plans:

- . Events at the Pavilion depend on Solar Power Project timing (Item 11). Until completed, a generator will have to be brought to the Pavilion for any activity. Final Fridays are on hold until a power supply is available.
- . No Spring BBQ this year.
- . Shakespeare evening early July if GB Theatre are touring again.
- . A village seaside outing during the summer holidays to be investigated.
- . Open Air Cinema 24<sup>th</sup> August and Village Day 26<sup>th</sup> August.
- . National Trust led family conservation day and overnight camping end September (deferred from 2017)
- . Quiz Night at the end of October.
- . Helen Johnston will be organising defibrillator training in The Barn at The Plough. Sign up in the shop.
- . The Club has a table tennis table which will be housed at the Pavilion.
- . JH suggested a Croquet Club.
- . The History Society held its final events in 2017. SS noted there may be interest in the village in occasional meetings. SMcL encouraged anyone who might be interested in taking this on to contact him or SS.

## 8. Children's Activities Report (NH):

The best supported children's activities were either informal, arranged at the last minute (e.g. pond dipping, a picnic at Abinger), or those which were part of bigger village events (such as Village Day races and events which

bring together children of all ages). A family film afternoon in the hall was well supported, but there was not enough interest to hold another one. A seaside trip and the National Trust conservation and camping day were being planned, but eventually deferred to this year.

#### 9. Cricket Club Report (SJ):

The Cricket Club struggled to get a full side out and cancelled a third of its matches. In August it considered folding. However, the Club has a full fixture list for 2018 and will be launching a recruitment drive. A minimum of 30 playing members is required to raise an 11-member team regularly. At present there are about 15. Everyone is welcome. Great cricketing talent is not essential.

The theft of the generator was a practical problem and affected potential hires. But the ground is very attractive and many 'Wandering' teams are interested in using it. Some local teams have merged, but there has been no obvious merger candidate for the Club to engage with. The next two years will determine the Club's future.

There was a lively discussion about securing the future of the Club.

- . Renting out the ground: The Club rents out the ground for a fee, and for a while a Dorking team was using it on a Saturday. The pitch can cope with a couple of matches a week at the start of the season, but this becomes costly to maintain as the season progresses.
- . Coldharbour players hosting other teams: Teams renting out the ground could call on Coldharbour players to help them fill their team card. SMcL offered to manage this.
- . Bundle activities together e.g. rounders, stoolball, croquet, table tennis (but Final Fridays tried to do this).
- . More 20/20 matches. This only works for very local teams.

DH asked about the circumstances in which a Cricket Club player was banned by the Sports and Social Club. SMcL confirmed this was agreed with the Cricket Club. DH was asked to take up her concerns outside the meeting.

Stoolball Report (SS): No matches were played. There are no mixed teams in Surrey. Practices were poorly attended. There are no plans for 2018.

#### 10. Bonfire Society Report(AS):

Natural England told the National Trust that the bonfire cannot be lit on its existing site next to the cricket pitch. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The National Trust has agreed it can be held on the cricket pitch instead (not on the square). The Cricket Club has also agreed. Spectators and stalls can be on the SSSI. This change will need a lot more support from the village before and after the event. Building the bonfire inside the fencing will require more management. Bonfire material cannot be left haphazardly on the SSSI. The event will be re-launched within the village as a family village event, co-ordinating bonfire building, pumpkin carving, guy building and activities for all the kids.

The village survey about the bonfire had a generally positive response. Traffic management was identified as the biggest problem. SMcL is proposing a one-way system from the pub to the church. The bonfire raises money for village causes (£ 2k donated this year to the Pavilion solar power project). The Bonfire Society needs to maintain substantial reserves to fund any future years affected by poor attendance, for example, due to bad weather. Having the big display fireworks relies on Giles Burley's continuing involvement. He has a Category 4 fireworks certificate. AS noted that the Bonfire Society may eventually need to bring in a fireworks display company. Toby Ward is researching a history of Coldharbour bonfire, started by Oliver Reed when he lived at Broome Hall.

2018 bonfire will be on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The Bonfire Society considered moving it to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>, the same night as Brockham, but decided a Saturday might bring bigger crowds.

#### 11. Power to the Pavilion Project (SMcL):

The Club is proposing to install a permanent power source at the Pavilion. GS prepared an Options Study, considering generator power, mains power and solar. The Study concluded that solar power is the best option, and an eco-friendly solution. It is no longer feasible to rely on generator power. Our installed generators have been stolen, with damage to the Pavilion. Insurance cover is now a problem. A portable generator held off site is only a temporary solution. Mains power would cost £ 60k, more than we could realistically raise. Digging a trench up the access track would be disruptive and require permissions which might be difficult to obtain.

Solar power will cost c. £ 18.7k to install. Three quotes have been obtained. It will supply sufficient energy for regular Cricket Club use and support a security system, if required, for insurance purposes. A generator will be brought in for big events. BJ and SMcL have applied for a LEADER grant of £ 11k (the maximum grant is 60% of the estimated cost). LEADER grants are an EU source of funds, awarded on a first come first served basis which will not be available much longer. The application succeeded at the first stage of the application process. The target is to complete the second stage for a decision by the end of April, so that work to install the system can start as soon as possible. Capel Parish Council has agreed to contribute £ 5k to the project. The remaining balance will be funded from Cricket Club and Sports and Social Club reserves. Once installed, there will be some on-going costs. Batteries currently have an average life of about 8 years. Technological advances are likely to improve further the efficiency and effectiveness of a solar power installation.

#### 12. National Trust Update (written report from NS):

‘.....we have agreed to the [bonfire] event continuing, with the bonfire relocated to the cricket pitch..... We have a limited number of events this year as we are being urged to encourage people to engage in self-led events. There will be a 50 Things summer trail, a Heathland summer guided walk, and guided walks around the Rhodo Wood throughout the flowering season. There will also be a beacon event at the Tower to commemorate 100 years since the end of WW1, which we hope to develop as a village event; more about this soon.’

#### 13. Parish Councillor’s Update (SMcL):

The Capel Parish Council precept for 2018/19 will be higher than it should have been because a grant figure that should have been excluded was instead included in error. Council Tax bills show a 13.4% increase in the precept instead of the 2% that was planned. A solution is being discussed.

The meeting supported TB’s vote of thanks to SMcL on behalf of the village for his hard work as Coldharbour Parish Councillor.

#### 14. Any Other Business:

- . MH thanked the village for all its support for the village fete.
  - . There is a Church Open Day on Saturday afternoon 14<sup>th</sup> April with teas, a churchyard tour, a short organ recital, and activities for children.
  - . On behalf of the village, TB thanked the various Committees for their hard work and contribution to village life.
- The meeting closed at 9.24 p.m.

MH – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018