

WEST DOWN COMMUNITY FIELD
(WEST DOWN VILLAGE GREEN FIELD ASSOCIATION)

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING

Held at 7.45pm on Monday 10th October 2016 in the Iron Room, West Down

Present: Committee Members – Chairman, John Stainer; Treasurer, Grazyna Ellis; Vice-chair /Secretary, Dianne McGahran; Roy Drew; Pauline Hart; Sara Hodsman; Alison Hume & Keith Oades. Association Members:- John Alexander, Martin Hodsman, Fay Hookway, Linda Hunt, Andy Lyons, Janet Oades, Eric Philipson OBE & Sue Squire. Parishioners:- Juliet Alexander & Fred Barker.

Apologies:- David Ayre; Catherine & Simon Barker; Jane & Dick Devlin; Pat Drew; Carole King; Adam Kwiatkowski; Pete McGahran & Heather Stainer.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming attendees.
2. The minutes of the Management Meeting of 12th Sept 2016 were agreed by Committee Members as a true record and signed accordingly.
3. Matters Arising from the minutes of 12th Sept – c/fwd to next Management Meeting
4. The Treasurer reported that the financial position is reasonably healthy, with a balance of £5779.74, which includes £3546.84 ring-fenced for specific purposes, leaving £2232.90 in general funds.

Fundraising enabled the mower to be completely paid for, a year earlier than expected. This will reduce outgoings, although the annual costs of fuel, repairs and servicing for the mower needs to be estimated and ring-fenced. In addition to specific fundraising for the Play Area, for which support from members of the community was greatly appreciated, a grant was received from West Down Solar Park. Huge thanks to Jon Rodney-Jones for his invaluable help and expertise and also to Roger & Josh Clark for their support and for supplying machinery.

Raising funds to keep the Community Field financially viable is essential. Following the popularity of their Secret Santa event last year, Sarah Hiscock & Sarah Land are organising another one this December. To raise funds for the Play Area, Sophie Gray helped Alison Hume organise a successful 60s disco and sisters Lisa Tossell and Donna Wright organised very popular Big Breakfasts. Any other such offers to organise events will be appreciated.

5. The History of the Community Field was recapped by the Chairman:- Paul Hillier was instrumental in approaching the C.I.C who purchased the site on behalf of the village. WDVGFA is registered with the Charity Commission and must comply with the CC's requirements and constitution, by having a responsible structure in place and by holding regular meetings to plan and oversee all aspects of this organisation.

The Trustees/Committee recognise that not everyone wants, or are able, to join committees, or attend meetings, but very much appreciate and acknowledge all the help given by Association Members, supporters and friends of our Community Field, especially in regards to maintenance of the grounds and fundraising. We welcome any volunteers to work with us to safeguard this valuable village asset.

To ensure ongoing protection, the Community Field is also registered with Fields In Trust. To date the site has been cleared and improved, allotments established, the stream area has been greatly enhanced and fencing erected, fruit trees, native trees and shrubs planted, benches and picnic tables provided and a Play Area installed. With swings and tower completed, the next phase for the Play Area will be the addition of a see-saw. Whether to fence off the Play Area is an issue under consideration. The Play Equipment needs to be regularly inspected and recorded. Installing the Play Area has increased the cost of the Community Field's insurance. Although the play equipment is fully covered by the insurance company, the additional premium, expected to be in the region of £500, will not be imposed until the policy renewal date. It is hoped that the Parish Council will be able to contribute towards the cost of insurance.

Now that the Community Field has been successfully established, it was discussed and generally agreed that, in future, the duty of the Management Committee will be to ensure the site remains fit for purpose, raise enough funds to cover ongoing expenses, manage the maintenance and oversee any further developments. Proposals for any specifically required facilities should be brought to the Management Committee, but spearheaded by the people wanting them. The Management Committee will willingly support approved projects, guide, direct and share any helpful knowledge - such as the way forward, grants etc - but not 'do it all' for them.

6. Fund raising events

Annual Family Fun Day & Dog Show – *Date of Sun 17 July 2017 TBC*. Christmas Draw. Mr Martin Hodsman suggested that these events alone would hopefully raise sufficient funds to more or less cover the basic annual expenses of running the field.

7. Ideas for development/facilities/fund raising

The general consensus was that the field is now looking great and the earlier points raised, regarding the Committee taking a step back and encouraging members of the community to get involved if they want specific projects, was reiterated.

Mr John Alexander, has made enquiries about the provision of a water supply, which would be useful for allotment holders.

This has been discussed in the past and is understood to be being looked into by Mrs Jane Devlin, as bore holes are the area of expertise of her neighbour, Mr John Morley. *Mr Alexander will try to source further information re a water supply and if this would also require an electric supply.*

Mr Andy Lyons suggested that the 'boggy' area be planted as previously intended. Mr Keith Oades commented that the area looks much better for being mowed and suggested leaving it as it is, for both the appearance and ease of maintenance. Mr Lyons and Mr Hodsman consider the planting of evergreen type bushes would not make mowing difficult and would shield the adjoining property as was requested. Mrs Grazyna Ellis will refer to the list of suitable shrubs that she had previously compiled and funds held and ring-fenced for the environment can be used.

Cricket netting has been suggested to the Parish Council. Interested parties need to contact the Management Committee – options of how best to get this message across, for this and any other projects, include the Community Field's Facebook and West Down website pages, a notice on the Field's notice board and word of mouth.

8. Further comments/suggestions/questions from the floor

- Some of the fruit trees need attention – *to be checked.*
- Positioning a dog bin at the Farriell Lane entrance – *the secretary will contact the Parish Council to ask whether this will be possible.*
- Erecting secure fencing around the perimeter of the field, especially where livestock graze in adjoining fields – *Will be looked into, but considered likely to be difficult as some areas owned by farmers are inaccessible, rabbits and badgers constantly break through barriers and wire fencing would get broken when the hedges are cut.*
- Accessing CIC funds, the Solar Farm grant & Section 106 money was discussed. According to the proverbial grapevine, the CIC have excessive funds awaiting allocation. Mr John Stainer, who is also on the CIC's board, explained the inaccuracy of this widely spread rumour. Further Information and application forms are available from the CIC website.

9. Health & Safety – no issues.

The Chairman once again thanked everyone for their input and closed the meeting at 9pm.

Next Management Meeting – 8pm Mon 14th Nov 2016 in the Iron Room

nb: £16 was raised from donations for teas, coffees and cakes. Thanks to all contributors.