

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE METHODIST OLD CHURCH HALL AT 19.30 HOURS ON MONDAY 25 JANUARY 2010**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Mrs. L Baseden, P Crawford (Chairman), J. Crowley, A. Gardner, Mrs. B. Curry, W. Gress, D. Poole & T. Shead

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs. K Bell (Clerk) & Borough Cllr. Mrs. E. Holland

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Ms. L. Picknett & P. Street

Cllr. Crawford opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

1. **Declarations of Interests:** Cllrs: Crowley & Gress declared an interest in item 2.

2. **East Peckham Sports Hall and Playing Fields**

Following the cessation of involvement by John Crowley and Bill Gress which would take effect in May 2010, a discussion took place regarding the future of the Sports Hall and Playing Fields following

It was acknowledged that Cllrs. Crowley and Gress had given a great deal of time and effort into getting the Sports Hall up to a standard. The Parish Council was proud of the condition of the Sports Hall and expressed their gratitude to Cllrs. Crowley and Gress. However, it was recognised that following their decision to cease taking direct responsibility for these facilities the Parish Council would have to consider how the Sports Hall and Playing Fields would be managed in the future. The Chairman said the first question was whether the Parish Council should continue to maintain the Sports Hall and members were of the opinion that as the Sports Hall was now a fully refurbished and functioning building designed for the benefit of the local community and it was desirable to keep the Sports Hall open.

A sub committee consisting of Cllrs. Crowley, Gardner, Gress and Poole had met on a number of occasions to discuss this and had put forward for discussion a number of options for the future which included:

- a) The facilities continue to be managed by the East Peckham Playing Field Company. There would need to be a new Director and management team and the company could register as a charity.
- b) The responsibility for the management of the facilities could return to the Parish Council.
- c) Find a caretaker/manager to run the operation.
- d) Lease the facilities to completely external managers.
- e) Sell the Sports Hall and Playing Fields.

During the discussion it became apparent that in order to keep the Sports Hall open as a community facility the only realistic option available would be for the Parish Council to take over the management of the Sports Hall and Playing Fields. It was therefore:

**RESOLVED:** That with effect from May 2010

- The responsibility for the Sports Hall and Playing Fields would be handed back to the Parish Council.

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- The East Peckham Playing Field Company would cease trading and be registered as a dormant company. The Clerk would be the Director of the dormant company.
- Prior to the company becoming dormant the company's current account and deposit account would be closed and the balance of unspent funds in both accounts transferred to the Parish Council.
- Prior to the company becoming dormant the small number of contracts in existence such as those for the Fire Safety Inspections and Fire equipment maintained at the Sports Hall would be transferred to the Parish Council.
- The administrative work would be carried out by the Clerk and any additional hours worked by the Clerk would be paid at her same rate of pay. If the workload became too onerous the appointment of an assistant to the Clerk would be considered. Other paid staffing appointments would include a cleaner and a caretaker whose duties would include being an on call key holder. Both the cleaner and caretaker would be in post by May 2010.

Other issues discussed included the marketing of the Sports Hall in order to increase its usage which was currently approximately 48% of total available use and changing the name of the Sports Hall so that the building became less associated with sports use but more associated with leisure. It was agreed that these issues would be discussed and considered at a later date

**3. Matters for future Discussion:**

It was suggested that the Sports Hall be the venue for the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting.

**4. Urgent Items:** There were none

**5. Matters for consideration in Private:** There were none

**6. Date of Next Meeting:** Confirmed as 15 February 2010

There being no additional business, the meeting concluded at 21.40 hours.