

Parish Council APM Sportsfield Committee April 2015

Tennis Club

The Tennis Club reports no problems with the new courts and they are regularly used and enjoyed by club members. The floodlights have extended playing hours and have been a real asset to weekend club afternoons and for members who are unable to play in the daytime. Tennis club pay for the electricity used by the floodlights and the footpath lights.

The club contract has been amended to ensure that Padbury Tennis Club always has first option on the lease of the courts. This was done at the club's request as they are maintaining the courts themselves.

Henry reported a problem with loose stones causing a problem with the mowing. However the stones have now bedded down and we hope this will not be as big an issue this summer.

Football Clubs

Padbury Village have had two teams playing this season. There have been no problems with the pitch but the showers in the changing rooms have been very temperamental. Thanks to Jamie Beckenham we hope the problem has been resolved but there is a spare pump available if required in the future.

One of the teams has experienced problems paying their bill this year but an agreement has been reached so full payment will be made.

The clubs are not happy at the proposed increase in fees for 2015/16 and this will be addressed during the course of the year.

Youth Club

Thanks to a grant from the LAF a new club was relaunched in February with a great deal of enthusiasm from parents and young people in the village. Debbie Gibbs has taken on the role of Chair and a youth worker has been employed to run the club. The club averages 14 young people a week but they are expecting this to increase with the lighter evenings.

Cricket teams

Yet again we have no cricket team although there are still rumours that a team may be set up to play friendly matches over the summer. As yet the parish council has not been approached; if we were we would wholeheartedly support the idea and would help in any way we could.

MUGA

This has been really well used throughout the year and has drawn people from outside the village too. Youth Club has found it a real asset during the winter months as the outside light has meant that they can play on the dark nights. It has also meant that the football field has been less churned up by the members on a Friday night.

Pavilion hire

Miss Rebecca's dance school has been hiring the pavilion one afternoon a week and has increased this by another afternoon so this has been a regular source of extra income for the PC.

There was also a regular booking from the church but unfortunately due to the state of the pavilion we lost this booking.

The pavilion advert is in the Pump for each issue and is available to hire for parties etc but last year we had just one booking for a christening. We hope to improve this but as it is a sports venue it is not ideally suited to catering for events.

A large village event is being planned for June 27. This will be on the scale of the Jubilee/Royal Wedding events and all village groups can use the afternoon to raise

funds. Ticket and bar money will go towards the paying off of the loan for the marquee. Once this loan is paid off any future rental income for the marquee will then go to the PC.

Maintenance

As previously stated the showers have been repaired.

We continue to have cleaners in to do a very basic clean once a month. However all clubs are responsible for cleaning up after themselves. There has been an issue with football not doing this but things have much improved.

The storage heaters are expensive to run and we are looking into an alternative source of heating.

The outside toilets are not fit for use and are locked at all times. This is something that may have to be addressed this year.

Bucks University Technical College has been doing work on the pavilion outside and has done an excellent job of repairing the scoreboard and the benches in the changing room. They are also going to build storage for the new marquee in the garage – this will be paid for by the marquee committee. They have also repaired the picnic benches/benches at the sportsfield and on Main Street.

Thanks must go to Henry Paxton for all his hard work this year. He has ensured that the field is maintained to an extremely high standard.

Millennium Wood

The wood is still a really popular spot for dog walkers and used very regularly. The rides were mown last year and will be done again as soon as necessary.

Thanks to our anonymous donor there is money available for any maintenance work that needs doing in the wood.

We are aware that at some point the trees will need to be thinned out – we intend to take advice on when this will be necessary and at what time of year this should be done to ensure the health of the trees and any wildlife that could be affected.

Play Area

The equipment was inspected but nothing was deemed to be needing repair this year. The old rocking horse's bearings are going but these cannot be replaced, however at present the horse is working. A new inspection will be carried out this year.

The company maintaining the grass did a good job last year and we have renewed their contract again for this year.

The gate post on the large gate has rotted away and this will need replacing very soon – quotes are being obtained.

Play around the Parishes

These sessions continue to be very popular but due to AVDC increasing the cost of these sessions we have decided to do just one this year.