

Barkway Parish Council

Appendix A - to the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 8th May 2017

Notes from Meeting with David Baulk from Royston Town Football Club (RTFC) and representatives from Barkway Parish Council (BPC)

Tuesday 25th April - The Reading Room - 7.30pm

Attendance:

David Baulk (RTFC)

Cllr. Bernie Morss (BPC)

Cllr. Bob Davidson (BPC)

Catharine Toms - Clerk/RFO (BPC)

Background:

The meeting had been requested by Cllr. Davidson following the Barkway Parish Council meeting held on 13th February where Mr Steve Anderson representing Royston Town Youth Football Club (RTYFC) had spoken to the Council about the possibility of negotiating a reduced cost for his youth teams to use the facilities at Barkway. He stated that the cost at Barkway was far higher than at alternative venues.

Further to a meeting to review the finances of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Cllr. Morss had written to Mr Anderson (see Appendix A) to explain that whilst BPC understood his efforts to drive down costs for his area of responsibility within RTFC, RTFC were in a 5 year contract with BPC and there was no clause within the contract to allow for a rate reduction. It was the Council's opinion that the services provided at the Recreation Ground exceeded the mandatory obligations set out in the agreement, the contributions of which were paid by RTFC and that the council had no control over how those costs were shared within RTFC.

It was suggested that RTYFC might increase their exclusive use of the pitches and facilities during the season, lowering the cost per game and supporting RTFC's obligation under the contract to use Barkway for football development.

No response to this letter had been received from Mr Anderson.

Meeting:

David Baulk explained that the contribution paid to BPC by RTFC was currently split 50/50 between RTFC and RTYFC regardless of number of matches each played. Decisions on where matches were played were down to the individual team managers. Recently usage of facilities at Barkway by RTYFC had dropped as managers were choosing venues closer to Royston, thereby pushing up their cost per game for Barkway. He said that it was an internal issue within RTFC that he would try and sort out, either by encouraging the Youth teams to make more use of facilities at Barkway or by increasing usage by adult teams and allocating them the lion's share of the contribution. Either way, he assured BPC that RTFC would honour the 5 year contract. Bob Davidson said that although the

Barkway Recreation Ground Management Committee (BRGMC) had been dissolved, BPC were now fully committed to the agreement with RTFC.

Bob Davidson said that costs of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground were carefully monitored and to date costs were very close to those budgeted at the outset of the agreement. The aim was that the cost of RTFC using the facilities at Barkway would be cost neutral to the village.

It was mentioned that Barkway had a Vets team that also used the facilities, which ticked a big box as far as Barkway residents were concerned. However, RTFC had priority use of the facilities.

David Baulk said that RTFC were extremely happy with the service they were receiving from Sam Methven, the Groundsman, who was always very accommodating to their requirements and diligent in his duties.

Bernie Morss asked David Baulk's opinion about ongoing pitch maintenance. It was agreed that the pitches would certainly need rolling at the end of the season. Bernie Morss would seek some advice on pitch maintenance and the Clerk would seek quotations for any works required. As a demonstration of BPC commitment to RTFC, quotations would be sought for an ongoing maintenance contract to maintain good condition of the pitches. **Action: BM/Clerk**

Bernie Morss offered to meet with team managers at RTYFC to try and encourage increased use of the facilities at Barkway. David Baulk would try and arrange this opportunity. **Action DB/BM**

The Clerk asked David Baulk if RTFC would still be actively encouraging local youngsters (from Barkway and surrounding villages) to get involved with the football training and activities on offer at Barkway, as football development was a part of the BPC contract with RTFC and was within the conditions of the grant awarded to BPC by the Football Association (FA). David Baulk would enquire with RTYFC. This was also a key point if regular matches by RTYFC dwindled. This was a matter of concern for all. **Action: DB**

David Baulk was asked about line marking machines (further to BPC shed break in and vandalism damage to line marker) - he agreed to forward contact details for a person that may be able to supply an ex-demo machine. **Action DB**

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.30pm.

David Baulk was thanked for attending.