

NEWPORT PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEES MEETING
26th APRIL 2010
THE ECO CENTRE, LOWER ST. MARY STREET, NEWPORT

PRESENT: Cllr. Byron James Chairman
Cllrs. Paul Harries, Clive Owen, John Rowe Lewis,
James Davies, Dai Webb, Soo Hutchinson & Annie Hollyfield

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. Daron Paish & Dilys Evans.

The Chairman opened the Meeting by introducing and welcoming our Solicitor Mr. David Prichard and Mr. Nic Rees from Newport Rugby Club.

Cllr. Paul Harries gave a brief history of the Playing Field association with the Rugby Club, and said their original agreement ended approximately 10 years ago, and until very recently with the exception of the Rugby Sevens competitions the Club has not used the Playing Field for several years.

All present were familiar with the proposal put forward by the Rugby Club that in return for a 21 year lease with priority - but not exclusive use of the facilities, the Club were prepared to fund the much needed renovation and new changing room equipment costing in the region of £6,000, but the Trustees felt they could not accept this proposal as the future use of - especially the changing rooms - was not for the present Trustees to decide for the long term. The Playing Field facilities were for the use of the whole of the Newport community not solely the Rugby Club.

Cllr. Harries had prepared a written estimate of the future cost of maintenance for the Field and changing rooms, plus annual insurance, and utility bills, and also gave the latest annual income figure we receive from the Investment Bond. Presently the grass is cut 3 times a year by P.C.C. in return for their using the Playing Field to gain entrance to the School Field.

All users of the Field and changing rooms will in future have to pay for their use.

The Tennis Club maintain the courts, and make no demand on Playing Field funds, but in future will be required to pay an annual licence as recommended by our Solicitor.

Cllr. Harries proposed and Cllr. Dai Webb seconded a proposal that the Rugby Club and the Playing Field Trustees share the cost of refurbishing the changing rooms, and the Rugby Club pay all the extra grass cutting/rolling etc. that is necessary for their games. Providing the Trustees are given notice of match dates the facilities will be available for Rugby. Likewise the Rugby Club will be advised in advance of any dates required by other bodies in the Town between September and May.

The above proposal was accepted by the majority of Trustees with the provision suggested by Cllr. Soo Hutchinson that should the changing rooms be remodelled/rebuilt to accommodate extra facilities wanted by the Townspeople the Club should be proportionately reimbursed their part of the cost of the changing room refurbishment. Cllr. James Davies felt this might not be acceptable to the Rugby Club without a 21 year lease.

Mr. Prichard said there would need to be a formal agreement between the Club and Trustees which would contain "Heads of Terms".

The Secretary had written to the Charity Commission asking a) whether we could grant a lease and b) whether we could use the Investment Bond money, and had today been verbally told we could not grant a lease, but yes we could use the Bond money. Mr. Prichard asked to be provided with copies of both the Secretary's letter to the Charity Commission and their e-mail reply.

Mr. Rees will convey our 50/50 proposal to the Rugby Club Committee and let us know their comments. He was thanked for his time and attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Prichard had drawn up a draft licence for Mr. & Mrs. Sneade which if acceptable to them would grant them the use of the small piece of Playing Field land adjacent to their rear garden for an annual charge of £10. The licence could be renewed annually for as long as both or one of them remained in residence at 13 Maes Morfa.

Before leaving the Meeting Mr. Prichard asked to mention various proposed land registrations including several for the Town Council.

Mr. Prichard suggested a nominal value for the Playing Field of £1,000.

Brynhyfryd Cemetery £1.

Small piece of land adjoining the Castle Hotel - not exceeding £1,000.

Bromedydd fountain and small piece of surrounding land. Mr. Prichard would like more information about this item. Cllr. Byron James will try and obtain the address of Mr. Saunders the Builder who gave the property to the Town. Mr. Saunders is believed to be living in the Isle of Wight.

Through our Solicitor we are contesting the claim being made by Mrs. J. Williams for part of Parc y Plant, and negotiations are presently being undertaken.

Cllr. Harries proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Prichard for his attendance, help and advice, tonight.

MINUTES The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 29th March 2010 were proposed and seconded as correct by Cllrs. Soo Hutchinson & Annie Hollifield.

MATTERS ARISING Cllr. Dai Webb told the Meeting that too date he had only read and recorded the Changing Room water meter. He was reminded that it was important that all three meters are read and recorded regularly. Cllr. Webb had been handed an invoice from British Gas for recent estimated supplies prior to this meeting.

The Rugby Club Gala Dinner raised in the region of £1,500.

The earlier meeting with Mr. Prichard and Mr. Rees was discussed.

Cllr. Annie Hollyfield reported she was in the process of making an application for grant funding from the Community Chest for the changing rooms.

Cllr. Soo Hutchinson asked whether a water heating system for the changing rooms using a wood pellet burning stove could be considered, but was informed that this type of equipment could not provide the instant hot water needed to service multiple showers.

Cllr. Hutchinson has still to produce posters asking for suggestions from young persons for new equipment for the Skatepark. Cllr. Harries will also contact Sinead Heeahan at P.C.C. about this matter.