**Ide Parish Council**

**Weir Meadow Working Group**

Minutes from meeting held on Thursday 19 Sept 2019 at 7pm

at The Hub

1. **Present:** Stuart Brooking (Chairman), Rich Cloke, Nick Bradley (Chairman Ide PC), Pete Skinner, Cheryl Haddy, Phil Willcock, and Richard Cottle.

2. **Apologies** received from: Mark Thomas, Jess Paine, Barry Hookins and Tony Stearman.

3. **Minutes** of the meeting held 11 July 2019 were approved and will be published on the website. Action : Nick

4. **Planning permission application**.

NB reported that Pete Leaver of David Wilson Landscape Architects is confident he will submit an application in October, with the necessary reports.

RC reported that his cricket club members were concerned about losing control of their cricket pitch; of having a ground and facilities thrust upon them which were larger and grander than they really required; and that ECB funding might come with attached conditions to develop, inter alia, youth cricket to a degree which was beyond their ambitions.

How far does the sophisticated planning scheme depend on the presence and position of an artificial cricket wicket? - to ask Pete Leaver

RC reminded us that the Parish Council could charge the cricket club rent for the ground, as one income stream.

PS said that the MUGA is also likely to provide income, if it is the right size and lit.

SB reported that his football team do not see themselves needing a full size pitch. He also now prefers a less ambitious, do-able project

We discussed how far this revised vision would or should alter the content of our planning application.

We agreed that it could make the whole scheme simpler and quicker to advance; and cheaper to fund.

Agreed we need to meet with Pete Leaver to review the scheme.

Action: NB contact P Leaver with a view to meeting w RC and SB asap.

5. **Northern Fields.**

NB reported that Rendells (formally in writing) and Pete Skinner (pro bono informally) had both valued the 17.3 acres, coming up with almost identical figures. [For commercially sensitive reasons the figures will not appear in these published minutes].

NB wrote to the Church Commissioners on 29 August making a formal offer to buy the fields, at the figure advised by our valuers. CCs have yet to respond to that offer, though they have acknowledged the letter.

We agreed that we should try to buy the N Fields and Weir Meadow as one deal because:

- it will secure both without risk of getting one but not the other;

- at a stroke deals with the agricultural access problem

- residents are more likely to see the value and links between the two as a public amenity if treated as one item

- can be brought under a single option to purchase agreement, making that easier and cheaper;

- saves money in fees when the transaction occurs.

We agreed that, whilst treating them together, we would continue to seek grant and donation funds for the Meadow, and a loan for the N Fields, because the Fields will have a more obvious means of paying their way.

Action:   
NB Agree a negotiated price for Northern Fields.

NB get an option agreement for 3 years for the Meadow and N Fields combined.

Then hold a public meeting and draw up a prospectus to publicise and explain.

6. Next meeting on Monday 28 October 2019 at 7pm, The Hub, Ide Congregational Church.

Action: SB book The Hub

NCAB 20 Sep 2019

Approved at meeting 28 Oct 2019