

WHITTLESEY SPORTS & LEISURE ASSOCIATION

Meeting at The Manor Conference Centre Whittlesey Wednesday 5th September 2018

Meeting commenced 7.35pm start

In attendance (23) Lead Robert Windle(**RW**) Peterborough Referees Association- Eamonn Dorling(**ED**) (Thorney Running Club)- Lesley Dorling (**LD**) (Fenland Archery Club)- Graham Sharman (**GS**) Whittlesey Junior FC- Joe Jennings (**JJ**) Whittlesey Business Forum, - Melvyn Beck (**MB**) Whittlesey Manor Bowls Club – Tony Ward (**TW**) Whittlesey Rifle Club- Alan Cox (**AC**) Whittlesey Indoor Bowls & Sports Complex- Richard Whitehand (**RWD**) Whittlesey Table Tennis Club- Peter Hau (**PH**) Whittlesey Table Tennis Club- Ray Hunt (**RH**) Fenland Disabled Bowls Association- Chaz Bunten (**CB**) OOBAC, - Jean Bunten (**JB**) OOBAC- Berni Grange (**BG**) OOBAC- Jake Thorner (**JT**) Whittlesey Rifle Club -Lynn Cherry (**LC**) Whittlesey Walking Group- Gary Morris (**GM**) Whittlesey Amateur Boxing Club- Mark Hurst (**MH**) Whittlesey Amateur Boxing Club- Judith Orwin (**JO**) Whittlesey Rifle Club- Edmund Orwin(**EO**) Whittlesey Rifle Club- David Moore(**DM**) Whittlesey Athletic FC.- Jon Gipson(**JG**) Manor leisure Centre

Apologies (2) Mel Chamberlain (**MC**)- Netball, Cllr Mrs Julie Windle (**JW**) Mayor of Whittlesey

Approached but heard from Whittlesey Angling, Whittlesey Manor Dolphins

Welcome – RW Welcomed everybody to the meeting to discuss the formation of a Whittlesey Sports & Leisure Association

Introductions- RW invited those in attendance to introduce themselves

RW explained that he was the consort to the Mayor of Whittlesey Cllr Julie Windle and that it was felt that an organisation as such would benefit Whittlesey & the Villages

ED said that the World Health Organisation had published a report about general fitness and this proposed Association is a great step forward

RW then outlined the following aims and objectives of such an organisation

To create a directory of Sport & Leisure Organisations in Whittlesey and nearby Villages

To update the directory

To create a calendar of events for the year September 2018 – August 2019

To ascertain the current membership of the Organisations

To measure the increased membership within the organisations

As a body to become a formal organisation, to meet twice a year

To mutually promote each other activities

To mutually assist another member organisation – Room space / equipment for special events

To publicise the member clubs / activities through social media and written media.

To instigate a Sport Awards ceremony for Whittlesey

To raise funds to benefit the membership

To pass on any funding opportunities to the membership either individually or collectively

To liaise with the local schools and gain links with the schools for mutual benefit.

To identify and promote any potential talent and to enable them to reach their potential

To ensure all member organisations adhere to a code of conduct

That when any visiting club or association comes to Whittlesey they have a positive experience

To assist with any issues that a club has with outside agencies

THE CONTACT FORM RW invited all present to complete the contact forms

THE NEXT STEP FORWARD. RW asked for a show of hands if this evening had been worthwhile and the formation of such an organisation was welcome and would be supported – Unanimous in favour

OPEN FORUM

BG and DM outlined their issues regarding grass cutting at their respective venues and lack of a suitable grass cutter. **DB** suggested a joint bid for monies and the machinery used on a share basis.

EO raised concerns about the take over of the management of the Manor Leisure Centre by Freedom who had won the contract in relation to their continued hire of facilities, various people were concerned that a private company would be focused on profits. It was asked if any housing development could take place, the field to the left with the pavilion was owned by the National Playing Fields Association and loaned – leased? to Fenland DC. The other area was also safe from development. **JG** said that Freedom were a Trust and not for profit organisation and that they manage 80+ centres for local authorities around the country this reassured the meeting.

GM mentioned the work of the boxing Club and how they are all inclusive and don't turn anybody away and they work with all groups and try and focus some to stay on the straight and narrow.

DM talked about the state of the football pitches at the Manor in particular the pitch close to their pavilion which in his opinion is dangerous due to the recent weather (cracks on the pitch). He was concerned that another organisation was training on it and potential injuries.

DM & GS also raised concerns that Sir Harry Smith Community College was looking to extend its building which would mean the loss of the tennis courts and the synthetic area which has the lights.

RW said that one of the projects he was working on with his referees was portable floodlights and he would advise in the future if there is any progress.

GS said that Whittlesey Juniors had benefitted by £2,600 from the Whittlesey Co-op token scheme and perhaps this may be an avenue for revenue.

It was asked if this Association was formed could it actually apply for grants as it would be associations within an association, **ED** explained that it was possible as long it was formed as a Trust.

It was noted the mutual benefit between two clubs where Whittlesey Athletic were providing refreshments for the Running club at their events at the Manor.

PH talked about the Table Tennis Club looking to go into the local schools and offering free Table Tennis Tuition.

RW mentioned the Whittlesey Festival taking place on Sunday 9th September, **GM & MH** from the Boxing Club were not aware and **RW** outlined the day and invited them to go along with a view of

having a stall to showcase their club next year, A stall cost £15 and they can be booked through Isabelle Edgington at Fenland District Council
01354 602167 iedgington@fenland.gov.uk

BG mentioned issues regarding guns outside of their designated areas and it was not possible to bring them to the Whittlesey Festival. **RW** responded that out of the box thinking was required and that as a fun element water pistols or water guns would draw in interest then those manning the stall could then sell their club.

JT mentioned that he had just started a Facebook group for the Rifle club and already there has been plenty of positive feedback, **RW** said it was important that clubs were aware of the ways to communicate with young people and that Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Text was the way forward.
(Best Practice when dealing with under 16s is via their parents/ guardians/ carers not directly with the child, this will protect the child the club and individuals within the club)

Other Potential partners

RWD mentioned U3A an organisation that offers a number of leisure activities such as Table Tennis, Cycling and walking.

Lauran Bremner Active Fenland

RW thanked those present for their time and courtesy and closed the meeting at 9.00pm

After the meeting other suggestions for possible invitations

Karen Mucklin, Lynn Crawford, Jess Lockhart (JG) to give RW contacts

Andy Harding Fitness

Chloe Hebden Fitness (Contact through Facebook)

Simon Parrblack Fitness

Whittlesey Town Bowls Club

LC mentioned that she offers Chair based Classes if there is a need, **RW** suggested she contacted the Care homes such as the Hermitage, Gables

Next Meeting Date **Wednesday 21st November 7.30pm At Whittlesey Manor Bowls Club (Next to the Manor Conference centre) Please note change of venue**