

CHILHAM TENNIS CLUB

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 730PM ON 12 APRIL 2018 IN CHILHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Officers: Geoff Dear (Chair), Darril Ling (Secretary), Richard Baker (Treasurer), Liz Dear (Membership Secretary), Penny Rickards, Pete Swan, Danny Wynne (committee members)

Members: Robin Gardiner, Helen Blackwood, Linda Noble, Pam Rogers, Liz Baker, Dan Salter, Mike Swan, Amanda Swan, Lucy Swan, Alison Cannon, Bryson Cannon, John Mansfield, Maggie Mansfield, Stephanie Ling, Pam Lewis, Mike Harris, Will Hinckley, Katie Hinckley, Gregg Macintosh, David Mason, Marion Mason and Sue Martin.

1. Introduction

The chair explained that the objective of the meeting was to present what the committee hoped everyone would agree are very exciting improvement plans, take feedback from members before obtaining agreement to continue with planning permission..

2. A bit of background

The chair provided a brief history of the key events that had prompted the committee to develop the improvement plan:-

2012 Membership Survey – overwhelming support for a club house (108 for/18 against)

2014 AGM approved a club constitution, club objectives and instructed the committee to pursue the club house project. The club needed to obtain TennisMark Accreditation to qualify for grants. This was achieved in summer 2015.

Since then the club has been working with CPRGT to develop its improvement plan and it has been agreed that the club can occupy the space currently used as a play area.

This was reported at our 2017 AGM together with the proposed site plan. (Copies of these minutes were provided for attendees and the site plan was on the last page).

3. Where we are now

The chairman explained the current status of the clubs improvement project highlighting the following points.

The club has been successful in obtaining funding amounting to £58k from the parish council (a developer contribution for outdoor sport as a result of the Bagham Place development in Chilham) and this has provided the club with a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve its facilities.

Further Capital funding has been obtained from Ashford Borough Council and Kent Sport enabling us to create a realistic budget of c£100k. Using just £20k of its own funds the club is within £5k of this target.

A big thank you was due to those members who have contributed to our fundraising ... whether its supporting the quizzes run by Pete Swan (for over 10 years now), attending Penny's garden party, helping out at Chilham Chase and Chill or simply making donations.

The committee has obtained estimates for all the work, selected suppliers and has a realistic and achievable funding plan.

The improvement project will provide a 3rd court in the space currently occupied by the play area and a central recreational area comprising small timber clad clubhouse, picnic area and refurbished practice wall between the new court and our existing courts (which will be resurfaced). Floodlights on the third court are not being considered at this stage as indications are that planning approval, whilst not impossible, would be difficult to obtain due to the light spillage on properties in Arden Grange.

The only change from the plan included with the AGM minutes is to extend the width of the third court to LTA minimum dimensions and move the club house as close as possible to the boundary with the football pitch (see Appendix A).

These plans have impressed the funding bodies the club has approached to the extent that all grant applications have been successful. A key factor in obtaining this funding was the ability to provide evidence, based upon the clubs track record and development plans, that the club can deliver against the associated funding priorities, eg value for money and the ability to create a high quality community facility that encourages healthier and more active lifestyles.

The committee has obtained pre-application advice from Ashford Borough Council planning department that expresses the opinion that “officers would support the proposals and suggest that the design takes into account comments from Sport England, Kent Downs AONB and Kent Police. These bodies have been contacted and the comments received do not indicate the need for any significant changes to our plans.

The project is nearing the final hurdle and the committee is asking its members to confirm their support for the work it has done following the instructions it has received and recent AGMs.

4. Questions

Members were given the opportunity to ask questions about the proposals and the following topics were covered:

- 1) factors governing the location of the clubhouse
- 2) types of court surface considered
- 3) reasons for not considering floodlights on the third court at this stage
- 4) the difference between capital and revenue expenditure
- 5) the impact on membership fees

5. Support for the Improvement Plans

The chair asked for a show of hands to indicate support for the improvement plans and this was overwhelming.

The chair thanked members for their support and confirmed that the next step was to apply for planning permission.

The meeting closed at 8:23pm.

6. Next meeting

The AGM on a date to be agreed in November 2018.

APPENDIX A

