

Report of the Recreation Committee Meeting held on Monday 8th June 2009, at Great Waltham Village Hall.

1. Record of Members present

Chairman: Mr J Bell

Councillors: Mr Huggins, Mr Blaber, and Mr Steel.

Also present: Walnut Tree FC – Peter Stokes (Secretary) Mark Fitheridge (Manager)

Ravens FC – Gary Porosa (Manager)

2. Apologies for Absence

Were received from Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Harper and Mr Micklem.

3. Declarations of interests (existence and nature) with regard to items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Participation session with respect to items on the agenda.

There was no public participation.

5. To give consideration to applications from the Ravens FC and the Walnut Tree FC for the use of Great Waltham Recreation Ground football pitch and changing facilities for the 2009/10 season.

Mr Bell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Mr Bell reviewed the current position indicating that the Ravens FC wished to continue the use of Great Waltham Recreation Ground as a home ground for a Saturday team playing in the Essex Mid Essex League. Ravens FC still wished to continue to play two Sunday teams but had agreed to play the games elsewhere and allow the Great Waltham Recreation Ground to be used by Walnut Tree FC as a home ground.

Mr Stokes explained that the Walnut Tree had been accepted by the Chelmsford Invitation League possibly in Division 2 and were currently awaiting a final decision. It was believed that there were seven teams in the second division and entry would be made into the league cup competition. This would indicate that seven home fixtures would be played plus the possibility of friendly fixtures.

Mr Bell explained that the Parish Council had made a decision for only one football fixture to be played on the ground per weekend and this was easily managed when the ground was let to one club only. It was accepted that with two clubs playing the same ground that there would be weekends where fixtures would mean that games would be played on Saturdays and Sundays.

Mr Bell spoke about the ground condition and stated that Clause 17 of the agreement between the Parish Council and the football clubs would need to be revised to indicate that the Parish Council reserved the right to cancel games in view of the pitch conditions.

Mr Bell went on to explain in detail the conditions applicable to the use of the ground and the practices which had applied to previous seasons.

It was agreed that the Walnut Tree FC and Ravens FC would sort out marking of the pitch and share the cost between them.

In concluding the meeting the members of the Recreation Committee recommend that the Great Waltham Recreation Ground be let to Ravens FC for Saturday afternoon fixtures and to the Walnut Tree FC for Sunday morning fixtures for the 2009/10 season.

The football clubs would be invited to attend the Recreation Committee meeting on 6th July 2009 to discuss the matter further and to review the rent and conditions of letting.