

**Minutes of Jubilee Field Working Group
Held Thursday 20th March, Community Centre office
At 7.30pm.**

1. **Present:** Cllr. Sharp (AS) Chairman, Cllr. Alesi (MA), Chris Rhodes (CR), Cllr. Hotson (EH), Nicola Stonebridge SMFC,
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Arger (MAA), Paul Bowden-Brown (PB-B), Lee Seal (LS), Cllr. McLaughlin (BM), Cllr. Riordan.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** 4.3.25 agreed.

4. **Matters Arising:**

Boiler - AS reported Ormandy attended on Wednesday to carry out corrective repairs. Also agreed to cover our expenses for calling out an electrician to make temporary repairs.

- Note - ladder to roof area needs to be vertical for safe usage. Message passed on.

3. **Bookings:**

- LS - Presentation Day May 18 will depend on state of 3G installation.
Please note this is formal notification of the event for SPC approval if required.

4. **Girl Guides:**

- Bug hotels have been made by the girls. As part of encouraging wildlife these will be put up around the Jubilee Field.

5. **SMFC CIC:**

- Note that the aim is to agree the hire agreement by 31st March 2025 in principle. It is understood that today's version will need to be discussed by the club's committee as well as be agreed at full council on 31.3.25.
Also if the SMFC CIC Clubhouse is developed then the SMFC CIC ground hire agreement would be amended to reflect that and if the 3G pitch is built the SMFC CIC Youth pitch and pavilion hire agreements would be amended.
- Ground Hire Agreement = hard copy with amendments as per previous meeting added:

Point 4 – change overarching title to Staplehurst Monarchs Football Club

As Youth FC have their own hire agreement AS explained it was not proper to include them on the Senior hire agreement.

NS asked if it is necessary to delineate each team can we add the Sunday am development team called the 'Sunday Team' ?

AS not sure if they could just add another team and that it would be better to have teams itemised so SPC are aware of how many teams are playing.

Please note that the Under 23 team is currently a Wednesday but may have to change to a Thursday. This is under discussion by the Senior FC who will advise SPC as soon as they know. Would this necessitate the 3G contract to be 'tweaked'?

AS confirmed after meeting that the club could imply book Thursday instead.

Point 12 – Currently says ‘The club is responsible for the maintenance of the main pitch. NS said that needs to change to SPC. *Much debate about this. AS did not agree with this.*

Point 14 – Discussion confirmed that this has historically been part of the hire agreement in case there should be any damage to the pitch. *Keep*

Point 22 – Pitches – add unless a game is taking place i.e. 2 hours before a match, during a match and 2 hours after a match. *Already in place.*

As agreed in 2021, JFMC (mins 29.11.21 - 8.1) Jubilee field is a public recreation ground. This enables the public access to the main pitch unless a match is being played. The turnstile entrance gate and East side gate to main pitch has not been locked for over 2 years now. The large access gates to the South of the pitch – JFWG do not recommend these are left wide open. If there is damage to the main pitch SPC would have the expense of repairing it. We have had damage to the junior pitches and in front of the guide centre from Motor bike and pony and trap which would have been a bigger financial burden to SPC if on the main pitch.

Point 25 – add – would be responsible for the cost of using the floodlights. *Add*

Point 40 – amend ‘selling of alcohol on match days for Staplehurst Monarchs Football Club.

NS asked if due to teams changing season to season can the umbrella term “SMFC CIC senior matches (not training)” be used rather than itemising each team? Or Sunday Team needs adding as if anything changes the hire agreement would need amending again.

As point 4 would need to add Sunday Team

- Hire fee 1.8.25 – 31.7.26 £8,302.50 Annual / £691.88 mth x 12 + floodlights

2024 – 25 £6,500 + £600 refreshment table + floodlights

2025 – 26 £7,500 + inflation 2.7% + £600 refreshment table
= £8,302.50 + floodlights

NS made a request for SPC to consider a reduction of £600 = £6,900

The refreshment table hire was issued with the thought they would have beer keg and be using power from the pavilion. It is just a table with an ice bucket with cans of beer and a gazebo over it. Could the £50 fee (£600 ann) for this be reconsidered?

Senior FC are paying more for their one pitch than Junior FC who have 3 pitches and their hire fee is £7,443.06.

Discussion noted that SPC mooted a hire fee of £9,519, then £8,679 which was reduced to £6,500 Jan 2024 after a plea from NS (EGM 22.1.24) for 1.8.24 – 31.7.25
JFWG Agreed that NS could submit a report to Full council requesting refund

- Partial reimbursement of fees paid between December and February

Due to the number of games the club had to postpone due to the pitch being unplayable as a consequence of so much wet weather .

Whilst many games have been or will be replayed, the changes can make a huge difference to the income generated to enable the club to pay the hire fees.

For 3 months SMFC were unable to use the refreshments table and at catch up games, of which for the first team games, only one could be replayed on a Saturday. They have no one to run it on a Wednesday when most games were replayed. The attendance for a mid week game is 40 – 50% less than for a weekend game. Whilst they have managed to ‘replay’ many games there will be weeks where two games a week have had to be played. This also means there is less revenue with fewer in attendance.

NS also feels that the clubs reputation has suffered as a result of all the postponements, with fans, leagues and opponents. It will take a significant amount of time and effort, by unpaid volunteers, to rebuild this reputation.

As such they request 3 x £50 refreshment table and £50 to hire Benenden pitch = £200 refund and anything else SPC might consider.

JFWG Agreed that NS could submit a report t Full council requesting refund

6. AOB:

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 29th April 2025, Office

Adele Sharp