



LAMBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE RACING COMMITTEE MEETING 30th OCTOBER 2023, 7.30PM AT THE MEMORIAL HALL

In attendance: Cllr Snowden, Cllr Leeming, Cllr Rieunier, Cllr Middleton, Cllr Atkinson, Cllr Bracey, Cllr Harris, R.Burns (Deputy Clerk)

01-10/23 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Cllr Leeming was unanimously voted to the Chair - proposed by Cllr Snowden, seconded by Cllr Atkinson.

Cllr Snowden was unanimously voted to the Vice-Chair - proposed by Cllr Bracey, seconded by Cllr Rieunier.

02-10/23 Minutes of previous meeting to be approved

Minutes of the previous meeting on 9th November 2022 were approved and signed.

03-10/23 Changes to the Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee unanimously agreed to discuss this in tandem with item **04-10/23**

04-10/23 Discuss actions arising from a proposal put forward at Full Council

The committee discussed actions arising from a proposal put forward by Cllr Snowden at the Full Council meeting on 4/10/23 where it was accepted as outlined in Full Council Minute **305-10/23**:

1. That the Racing Committee (RC) continue to ask each trainer to pay a set amount per horse as has been done historically. That the fee per horse should be raised to £4.00 vs. the current amount being frozen at £3.00 for some time. This should allow for a reserve to be built over time. In the event of there being a shortfall in the reserve, the Jockey Club will cover the deficit.
2. In the event of funds being needed for the repair or maintenance of a track or the like, there will be an option to use the reserve for repair, subject to agreement by both the racing committee and the LTA.
3. A memorandum of understanding will be drawn up and agreed upon with the LTA to give LPC the opportunity to confirm the roles and responsibilities of the various parties in the case of non-payment as above.

Cllr Snowden ran through the accepted proposal and clarified that additional funds in earmarked reserves would be used for repairs or works to the horse track at the Old Cricket Field only, not to other tracks. The Levy will be applied to trainers and pre-trainers with some discretion where there are good reasons for partial or non-payment. Most trainers who didn't pay last winter said it was down to administrative error so it is believed uptake can be improved. For this winter the request amounts to £4668 approximately

The Committee **unanimously agreed** the following **Actions**:

- **Deputy Clerk** to email the request letter in mid-November with a payment deadline of end of January 2024. Hard copies of the letters to be provided to **Cllrs Leeming and Snowden** so they can deliver by hand.
- **Cllrs Leeming and Snowden** to ask Lambourn Trainers Association (LTA) for their input on how they see the track repair set up working.
- **Cllrs Leeming and Snowden** to provide clarity to the Committee on the insurance of riders in the event of an accident on the Old Cricket Field Track.
- **Deputy Clerk** to see if a template is available for the Memorandum of Understanding and the **Clerks Office** to assist with its creation.
- **Clerks Office** to revise the Racing Committee Terms of reference and submit to December Full Council for approval.

05-10/23 Proposal to discuss the timing of salting runs

Proposal to discuss the timing of salting runs following a suggestion from a parishioner that salting the night before a frost does not mitigate the problem of ice at 5am for horses.

Cllr Snowden has checked the details of the West Berkshire Council Winter Policy which covers how salting decisions are made. They are part of a complex calculation and it isn't possible to change the methodology. **Cllr Bracey** drives gritting lorries on behalf of WBC and outlined that Lambourn are the only Parish Council in West Berkshire to pay for additional salting routes and that those routes are a small part of what is a 115-mile primary run. Although gritting lorries will work at any speed, peak efficiency is at 31mph which it is not always possible to achieve.

The Committee **unanimously agreed** to monitor salting this winter season and look for other means to address any persistent problems before the next winter season.

Though it's not possible to change the timing of salting runs the Committee discussed how to help with specific problem areas that are often currently covered by Jockey Club Estates and individual trainers and **unanimously agreed** the following **Actions**:

- **Cllrs Leeming and Snowden** to request that bollards are not used on the night of salting runs as this currently means a part of the route cannot always be reached due to risk of damage to the truck.
- **Deputy Clerk** to investigate a suggestion by Cllr Bracey that Cllr Leeming and Jockey Club Estates could be added to West Berkshire Council alert that the drivers receive on the night of a salting run.
- **Deputy Clerk** to find out whether Jockey Club Estates have their own weather centre.
- **Cllr Leeming** to amend the salting levy letter to request feedback from trainers throughout the winter season. The Parish Council will use this feedback to monitor salting this winter and ensure all roads are salted to the correct standard. Depending on the results in future it may be possible to increase the volume of salt used on the additional roads.

06-10/23 Racing Levy

The figures for last winters levy had been revised since the Summons was sent out. With the Chairs agreement **Cllr Rieunier** ran through the finances and provided current figures.

- In future there will be no allocation from the precept to Racing.
- Any money that is received from Trainers towards the salt levy but not used for that purpose will be held in a dedicated Earmarked Reserve.
- There is currently £1392.00 in the reserve.
Less £1484.00 for last year's salting bill
Leaving - £100.00
The reserve should return to surplus following this year's levy request.
- The correct split of the salting bill between the levy and the Parish Council averages 50/50 with an accurate split given by West Berkshire Council on receipt of the bill.

8.10 Cllr Atkinson left the meeting.

Proposal to agree any changes to the wording of the letter to trainers regarding additional salting over winter 2023-24. The Committee **unanimously agreed** the following changes:

- To change the split in the letter to 50/50.
- To change the map in the letter to one that only shows the additional salting roads that are specific to the Racing Community.
- To change the letter to specify that the levy goes towards the horse track at the Old Cricket Field – not any routes and tracks used by racehorses not covered by West Berkshire Council as currently stated.

07-10/23 Items for future agenda

No items suggested for future agenda.

Meeting closed 8.35pm

Signed:

Date: