

CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

To all Members of the **SPORTS & RECREATION** Committee (with copies to all other members for information).

You are summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the **Sports & Recreation** Committee to be held at the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on **Tuesday 2nd May 2023** at **7.30pm** when it is proposed to transact the following business:

Caroline Miles, Town Clerk
26th May 2023

MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Questions from members of the public (15 minutes maximum)

Please note that in view of the confidential nature of the discussion of some items on this agenda, the press and public may be excluded under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of 28th March 2023

4. ERIDGE FIELD

4.1 To **note** the report and **agree** further action

5. URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA



AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.1
MEETING DATE: 2nd May 2023
COUNCIL/COMMITTEE: Sports and Recreation
TITLE: Eridge Field
PURPOSE OF REPORT: Ground conditions at Eridge Field – Kings Coronation
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:
OFFICER CONTACT: Operations Manager

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:	
1	
2	

Background:

On the 7th March 2023 a request to use Pitch 3 at Goldsmiths for the Kings Coronation and Summer fair was made to the S&R committee.

The following is taken from the minutes:

To note the request from C & E and agree any action

The working group noted the report.

It was noted that the council had designated Eridge Field as an events field.

The Council pays to keep pitch 3 in good condition so that it can be used as a football pitch.

The council receives income from the football teams that hire it. If pitch 3 was damaged as a result of holding events on it the pitch could not be used the following day. Cars on the pitch were not acceptable. The question was asked that if the pitch was damaged as a result of holding events on it who would pay for the work to be carried out, S & R or C & E.

It was noted that pitch 3 is level and thus ideal for CTC events, additionally the children's play park is on site which would encourage families with small children to attend.

It was further noted that the Kings' Coronation is a very special event and as such should be held on pitch 3.

A proposal was made to hold the King's Coronation event on pitch 3.

The proposal was not seconded.

10053 RESOLVED that both events are to held on Eridge Field.

Current Position:

A site survey was undertaken on the 21st April and concerns were raised over the wetness of Eridge Field for an event to be held on it due to supplier and Council vehicles needing to be driven onto the field to unload/ setup along with food and drink vendors driving to their positions. There are also concerns that the field is too wet for people to sit/ enjoy the event and it will turn into a mud pit.

A further assessment was carried out on the 26th April and Council vehicles were used to test the ground conditions. The Ford transit vehicle (similar to most suppliers vehicles) could not get further than 20-30 meters into Eridge field before becoming stuck. Different angles were attempted but all resulted in the vehicle becoming stuck. The Council's Landrover in 4wd managed to enter the field but still managed to get stuck on two occasions leaving large ruts in the field due to sinking into the field.

Further rain is predicted in the run up to the event on the 6th May. On the current condition of the field along with the weather forecast the event will not be able to be held on Eridge field.

This event has cost £10,000 to organise and therefore any alternative to cancelling the event needs to be considered. One alternative is to move the event to the Pitch 3 of Goldsmiths.

The ground conditions for Pitch 3 have been checked. There are areas of soft ground which would prevent the Council from driving 2wd vehicles to all areas of the pitch. Therefore 4wd vehicles would have to be used, however these vehicles have not caused lasting damage to the surface on testing. Utility vehicles on hire would be considered as an option due to being light weight and 4wd allowing for moving equipment around the location. Vendors would be placed on areas that are hard and near to the roadway to reduce vehicle movement across the site. Vehicle movement across the actual football pitch would be restricted to essential vehicle movement only. This will limit damage to a minimum.

Pitch 3 is used by Rotherfield Football Club on the 6th and 7th May under their annual agreement. Following this weekend until the new season starts in September the pitch is not booked. If the event were to go ahead on Pitch 3 the RFC would need to use Pitch 1 instead of Pitch 3 for both the 6th and 7th (due to setup and takedown time of the event). Pitch 1 is not currently booked by anyone for use.

Other locations have been considered for this move however do not appear suitable without substantially effecting the event. Reasons include:

- Goldsmiths is a licenced area and therefore we are licensed to have a bar selling alcohol. By moving away from Goldsmiths we will not have a licence which we would have to apply for. However, a temporary event notice is limited to a restricted bar area of up to 499 people and Licencing require a minimum of 10 days to process a TENS application so this option is not available to us.

- We also have not got the power capacity at other sites for the stage/ bar and activities. Currently we will be running a mains supply across the site preventing the need for generators. By moving to another site we would need to hire multiple generators to power the event.
- All of the promotion for the event is for 'Goldsmiths Recreation Ground, Eridge Field', This can easily be altered and signposted to another part of Goldsmiths, however moving the event to a location away from Goldsmiths would require all advertising to change and there could still be public not informed of the change who would attend the wrong location on the day.
- Redesigning the event to Pitch 3 at such a short notice is going to create a lot less administrative and logistical work than trying to change the event to suit a completely different location.
- The events manager is only in for two days between this meeting and the actual event to get all these changes implemented. Therefore it needs to be considered what is actually possible to be achieved in two days.

Photos of Eridge Field:













