**Minutes of Grove RFC Board meeting held 26/01/2015.**

Present: -, Chris McCarthy, Martin Stalder, Paul Walsh, John Sevier, Craig Burrows and Storm Dinsey (deputising for Niki Dinsey)

Apologies: - Adrian Amies, Niki Dinsey and Phil Connolly

1. Minutes of previous meeting approved and signed off.
2. Treasurers Report.

The treasurer reported that at the current time the club has a balance of approximately £6.8k. However, it has outstanding bills of around £14k. (Payment for showers being the main component of this along with the expected ground rent from the parish council.)

The main reason for the shortfall being the long overdue refurbishment of the club social area and £2500 spent on the ladies toilets plus the fact that income is well down on last year.

£1200 promised by sponsors is still to be received; however PW is chasing this on a weekly basis.

2 events have been planned for March which should help to bring in funds.

Membership is still coming in however, the RFU system is fraught with problems so making it very difficult for Dave Parry to log on and get an accurate list of members.

It is hoped that next season the system can be scrubbed and we can start from scratch.

Again the authorising of payments has been highlighted with sums greater than £50 being authorised by board members without prior approval from the Treasurer.

**No payments for expenses or purchases that are in excess of £50 can be authorised by BM’s without either a phone call or e-mail to PW first.**

**Action: -** JS to organise a games night

1. Report from the Director of Rugby.

The senior side had a good win over Banbury in the Oxfordshire cup at the weekend, scoring 5 tries to 0.

The first team are confident that they can achieve a mid table position in the league this season and will be aiming for promotion next season.

Training has proved very difficult this year due to the condition of the training pitch. Over use of the training area is the main problem so the Parish council will be asked to restrict usage to 2 hours /group when conditions dictate.

In order to help retain the training pitch in a better condition it has been proposed that we look at purchasing portable floodlighting and use this on Wasborough Field.

**Action:**- MS will investigate lights and costs.

MS will also contact the DPA Group and ask if they can source any funds for the purchase.

MS to raise the question with the parish council at the next meeting in March, of using Wasborough Field along with the request for a container to be installed to help with storage.

MS to raise the question of restricted use as and when necessary with the PC.

ND will approach the RFU to see if there is any chance of a grant to help with the purchase. (talk to Dusty Miller?)

1. Report from the Director of youth/junior Rugby.

All the junior and youth teams are running well.

£180 needed for extra equipment but due to club’s poor financial state, sponsorship will be sought.

New tag belts are also required. 2 sets at £10/set but these should be purchased asap.

It was reported that the changing rooms were spotless on Sunday after the games Saturday. Thanks to seniors for organising cleaning.

The arrangements for the Mini Festival in October are underway, however, no festival organiser has been named. Volunteers will be required to help with the organisation and to take responsibility for managing certain sections.

**Action:-** SD to order tag belts

ND to raise issue of organisers for MF with the Junior/youth committee.

1. Clubhouse/bar area and re-development.

Work mainly complete.

Honours board still to be given to Falcon Signs for the lettering to be applied.

**Action:**- Roger Williams to chase delivery of Honours board

1. Key Register

NO Progress

1. Review of the functioning of the reduced board and the ways to move forward.

A new board structure was presented defining the roles of each board member and the management positions that report into each BM.

The structure was discussed and some changes suggested that would improve the functioning of the Board.

The Structure will be updated and a final version will be distributed for full approval of the board. (This falls in line with the request of the membership, at the last AGM, to establish a new Board structure.)

A Job Description for each Board and management position was also produced.

All board members were asked to examine the descriptions, and to revise as required, those positions that head into them.

The question of length of tenure on the board was also discussed.

At present the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary are appointed for a term of 3 years with the rest of the board appointed every year.

It was decided that there was no real advantage to the 3 year period and in fact it took away the ability of the membership to choose who they wanted to represent them each year.

As a result of these discussions the board voted unanimously to put to the membership, at the next AGM, a proposal that the articles be changed to state that each BM will be required to stand for re-election each year. If agreed the change to 1 year will take effect immediately.

1. The Strategic Planning Advisory Group.

The letter was well received by the board with regard to the opportunities that may exist to get funding from the Grove Development to expand the club house.

As there was a need to decide on this issue asap the request was voted on prior to the BM with e-mail voting being used.

The result was a unanimous yes to proceed with the work along with a promise of full support from the board and it’s thanks to the SPAG for undertaking this task.

We feel sure all the membership will wish them every success in this task.

1. Training pitch, sports compound.

Discussions are due to take place in March.

1. Supplying the council with copies of club accounts.

PW has no objections to the council request, especially with the club being a PLC the accounts are open to all at Companies house.

With this in mind a set of accounts has been dropped off at the council offices.

1. AOB.

As per the councils request for the club to get it’s own post code estimates are being sought to have a secure post box installed on the front door.

If and when this is installed we will then be in the position to apply to the Royal mail for our own post code.

Date of next Board Meeting -Monday 16th February 2015

**Time – 7.30pm** Location -Grove Rugby club