

## **APPENDIX 1 TO MINUTES DATED 17.6.24**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSED EXPANSION OF FOOTBALL PLAYING AREAS WITHIN BEGDALE FIELD**

#### **PERSONAL ACTIVITIES**

- I can confirm that I was a coach for Elmbridge FC in 2024. As per FA rules the club does not have any registered players at this time, and I have decided to step away from the club as a registered coach to focus upon my role within the U18 and men's reserve teams for Wisbech Town to avoid conflict with my Parish council responsibilities.
- I am presenting the case for Elmbridge FC as a person who is used to presenting complex information to the council as well as being an experienced and qualified FA coach.
- My reason for presenting the case on behalf of Elmbridge FC is purely for the development of the club, the expansion of football offering to the local community and to prevent the exodus of football talent to Wisbech St Marys, Outwell Swifts FC, Leverington, Marshlands and Downham FC.

#### **Questions from the meeting on Weds 14/06/24.**

Following the questions asked to the club I can confirm the following on behalf of the club:

1. The formal documentation for Elmbridge will be sent to Parish clerk to cover the football calendar which begins 01 July 2024 and finish 31 May 2025.
2. The club has not reached its first year, but an AGM will be planned shortly and minutes of the meeting will be sent to Parish Clerk
3. All activities at Begdale will be delivered by Elmbridge FC.
4. All managers, coaches, volunteers associated with the club will be vetted and if necessary, a DBS will need to be obtained for people with direct contact with children.
5. A question was raised regarding the trees. The football club will need to move some of the trees, at their cost and covered by all relevant insurance and indemnities from the contractor to a position that will allow the trees to thrive and not affect access to areas that require maintenance from outside organisations.
6. The club agrees to manage the grass areas within the boundary of the park. If asked, they will be happy to keep the outside area opposite the fence providing the equipment the club will have will allow that to be done in a safe manner.
7. The club confirms that it will keep the grass areas within the boundary of the field, including the movement of trees and ensuring they are placed with a safe structure to minimise the risk of damage from animals and vandalism.
8. The club can safely place four playing areas for age groups U8 thru to U12 according to FA regulations.
9. A training/ U5s area can be developed at the far end of the pitch to minimise damage to pitches if needed.
10. Managers will be responsible for keeping the toilet area clean within the parish council building after every game.
11. The club has never been asked to close the gates to the field. The club has closed them when it was dusk and nobody else would be likely to use the field for normal use. However, the opening hours on the notice board state dawn to dusk. Hence the club left the gate open. If the PC requests the club to close the gates when they leave after training, then they will be happy to do so. Just be aware that some dog walkers, joggers or people simply wishing to walk around the field may be disappointed to find the field closed.
12. Overflow parking will be signposted to the area opposite the field to ensure away team parents do not park on the road. I believe this may have been caused when gates were closed when they arrived and did not move the car once they were settled. The club will also ensure all

opposition managers are aware and they will approach the farmer to see if ALL away team cars are parked in the overflow area.

13. The issue of noise was raised. Clearly the club has no influence upon which vehicles adults drive. If they have a custom exhaust for example the noise from the vehicle will not be acceptable to local road users and residents but could well be within the rules and legal regulations. However, the club will remind all opposition managers to ask parents to respect the local community. However, if proposed development proposals for the dairy are accepted, whether commercial or residential, the noise from lorries or homeowners will significantly exceed any noise from the club.
14. In term of noise from young footballers – the club does not accept players shrieking and shouting or silly and bad behaviour. The managers and coaches take this issue very seriously and noise from players will be associated with playing and enjoying footballing activities. Something that I am sure would be welcomed by Parishioners throughout the Parish.
15. Opposition managers will be made aware of the clubs’ policy.
16. Training sessions, football matches will be staggered throughout the week. The club can train some age groups simultaneously which will reduce the number of sessions. Matchdays are Sat and Sun. it is not expected that there would be more than two matches per day at maximum capacity of teams/players.
17. It should be noted that this is not an immediate influx of players. It will take time to build up the required resources needed to reach maximum capacity.
18. All training and matchday sessions will be advertised as soon as the club is formed from the local league to allow dog walkers to decide if they wish to walk the dogs on the lead whilst children are there or reschedule the walk to allow them to let the dogs of the lead.
19. The club will be responsible for all licences, indemnities and liabilities associated with club organised event on the field. If a child breaks a leg for example the club insurance policy would cover any negligent activities. The club is also responsible for ensuring playing areas are free from dog excrement.
20. The club is not responsible for people using the field outside the remit of the club.
21. Finally, the club confirms that ALL financial implications associated with the field, outside of structural or ditch maintenance will be covered by the club.
22. To confirm there is no cost implications on the Parish as the club will be self-sustaining. Should the council decide that savings from the cutting of the grass that is currently under contract could be used to develop the Begdale area or a financial donation to the club to cover some or all the fuel needed to maintain the grass would be appreciated. Much in the same way the council support grants and donations to local organisations.

### **The Association between Elmbridge and Wisbech Town FC**

1. Currently Elmbridge FC does not and will not have facilities to provide football support above the age of 13. At this point players will once again have to go out of not only Elm but also neighbouring Wisbech communities. Players will be forced to go to the clubs named above.
2. Currently Wisbech Town does not have access to boys’ football due to a lack of facilities and does not have the physical space to expand.
3. The clubs have agreed a non-financial association.
4. The association opens a pathway of football from U8s through to adult.
5. Elmbridge FC has been extremely successful bearing in mind the club is not yet one year old. The club has seen an influx of players recently which had showed a need to expand this year, but recruitment is difficult because of the lack of a ‘big name’.
6. Players from Elmbridge will have the automatic pathway into Wisbech Town youth section and hopefully will develop to become first team players.

7. In return for this flow of players to Wisbech Town the club will help with grounds maintenance, the immediate requirement is for the field to be heavy rolled to remove the excessive lumps and bumps which doesn't help footballing skills and could cause players to stumble etc.
8. The club is looking into the possibility of giving Elmbridge a ride on mower from their existing stock. Currently checking to see if it is safe, works etc.
9. Elmbridge will have access to Wisbech Town equipment and clothes suppliers. This will save the club some money as it will be part of a mass purchase.
10. Elmbridge will market its teams as Wisbech Town to help draw in players from the local community and if necessary, we can access players within Wisbech itself.
11. It should be noted that the focus of both clubs is to generate a non-pressure footballing experience for the players. Results aren't important to the clubs as such – it is to the players though – its all about developing local talent.
12. Elmbridge will run numerous events at the field, fun runs etc. This will draw in the local community. Whether it is a child or an adult everyone is welcome
13. Elmbridge FC will receive help from being part of an associated football partnership and Wisbech have offered support in terms of welfare and league requirements.
14. There are no fiscal payments between the clubs – this is simply developing an association to have complete football pathway for players and developing a strong community bond within the parish and surrounding areas.
15. The partnership has already generated excitement within the local community. It is hoped that this will be reflected in numbers attending the meeting on Monday. Elmbridge can really flourish in terms of developing a strong footballing community whilst Wisbech can offer years of advice in terms of moving ahead quickly.
16. Begdale field will remain, but signage will reflect that it is the home of Elmbridge FC in association with Wisbech Town FC
17. Once again, all signage etc will be covered by the football club and there is no fiscal impact on the parish council.

### **Summary**

- Fantastic opportunity for the local club to grow and develop football-based activities for the local community.
- Association with Wisbech Town ensures that there is a complete football Pathway for players to progress within the immediate locality.
- No financial transactions between the clubs
- No interaction from the Wisbech Town board in Elmbridge FC affairs or indeed Begdale Field except for advice in grounds management and loan of specialised equipment if needed.
- This is a long-term association and growth will be delivered simply by demand from the local community.
- Potential to arrange collaborations with other local fairs if they wish to allow residents to spend an entire day out in their Parish.
- This project is purely about developing and engaging young people from an early age and develop a strong community bond that can only.
- Despite the use of boys in the above document, the club encourages female players who have joined the U11 squad and are active players. This has increased the clubs desire to develop a girls and womans section to complete the clubs offering to the community.
- The club would also like to develop a section focused upon disability and mental health section, ensuring the club serves as many areas of the community that the Begdale field can accommodate
- The club is also willing to work with local community centres, schools to help develop local football activities if the need arises.

- **N.B. NO FINANCIAL RISK FOR THE P.C. The club will use funds from subscriptions and events to improve club equipment and develop the playing areas.**