

KEMPSTON RURAL PLAYSPLACE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY
2ND OCTOBER 2003

CROSS KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE

Present: Julie Pritchett, Tanya Collins, Hilary and Zoë Turewicz, Maria Robinson, Debbie James, Ronnie Barclay, Bev Rinvenuto, Martin Fuller.

Apologies: Jon Shilling, Frances and Roger White, Debbie Beresford, Arnie Kupper, Millie Barclay, Chris Lowe.

Meeting opened at 8.10pm

Minutes of Meeting Held Tuesday 2nd September 2003

Agreed with no issues raised.

Treasury Report

Hilary produced balance sheet stating that current balance is £10,559.85. This does not take into account confirmed grants of £1000.00, Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust and £8000.00 from The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) that are paid on receipt of equipment purchased.

A total of £364.50 was made due to the Driveway Sale.

Change of Bank Account Name

Due to the fact that Hilary has to attend the main branch in Bedford this has not yet been done, but it was hoped that this will be done week commencing 06.10.2003.

Inspection Book and Rota

This seems to be going well with not too much to report. **The Parish Council require to see this record yearly** and not monthly. A note to be made to take the record to the Parish Council Meeting in April 2004.

Matt Lawson was informed regarding the fence that is in need of repair but has not been in contact to state that this has been rectified. Please who ever has the book this month could they check the fence? He also has not submitted the quotes requested for fencing along the rear gardens of Tithe Road and Wood End Road.

Action: Debbie James to chase.

Introduction Letter for Company Applications

Following the draft letter distributed, the sub-committee reformed with everyone's suggestions and have completed a second draft letter. Julie to e-mail to Debbie in order that it can be sent out for any further comments or suggestions. We need to send these out now reasonably quickly in order not to be confused with the 'Christmas Rush'.

Julie, Tanya, Phillippa, Hilary and Maria stated that they would take 10 copies of the Portfolio each and address envelopes. Jon to divide up the list that he has in order that these can be sent out.

Hilary stated that whilst the advice was we should contact each company for a 'Name' for the portfolio to be sent to, it was unlikely that we would be given this mainly due to security reasons and changes within companies. It was agreed that if the persons addressing the envelopes wished they could contact the companies in an attempt to obtain a name, if not the portfolio's could be addressed to The Managing Director or similar.

Action: Julie to e-mail second draft letter for comments and suggestions. Jon to divide list of company's and give Julie, Tanya, Phillippa, Hilary and Maria 10 each.

Debbie to give 10 copies of Portfolio and envelopes to above.

Constitution

Debbie still has not managed to look at the suggestions made. An appeal to volunteers to assist in going through what we currently have and the comments for improvement.

If the constitution is 'upgraded' it should be sufficient for Charitable Status, should we decide to go along that route.

Julie stated that if we were Charitable Status as she intends to run at the London Marathon in 2004 she would hopefully gain a place due to this if she fails to gain a place in the ballot. In any event she intends to run for The Playspace funds. Good Luck Julie.

Again if we were Charitable Status it would open us up to other sources of income that we are not currently entitled to and give us other advantages, i.e. we could claim back some if not all of any VAT we are charged through ordering equipment. This is something that we will need to consider in the near future.

Action: Volunteers to contact Debbie to 'upgrade' the Constitution.

Parish Council Meeting

Chris Lowe was in attendance at the meeting and was formally co-opted onto Kempston Rural Parish Council. We would like to thank him for his commitment not only to the local community but also to The Playspace.

The Parish Council were informed as to our success in raising funds for equipment both by grants obtained and the local events.

The question regarding ownership was again raised, as without this being resolved no equipment can be installed into The Playspace. They assured us that this was being attended to. Owing to changes on the Parish Council the secure box held at their bank where paperwork /deeds etc are held was not accessible as the Councillors that attended did not have authorisation to the account. This is now being rectified and it is hoped that at their next meeting an answer can be given.

They were informed that the Inspection Book was up and running.

Following the anonymous letter being delivered to residents that back onto The Playspace, we stated that a copy of the Portfolio had been delivered to each of those houses with a letter giving contact details if anyone had any further concerns or issues. Debbie James said that she had not received any further concerns but instead had received positive feedback from other residents offering support to The Playspace. Mrs Bottoms, Clerk to The Parish Council stated that she had not had any further communication since the anonymous letter.

Further to these concerns a request had been made by one of the residents for us to raise the issue of a fence, similar to that paid and erected at the field end, to be erected along the rear of the houses in Wood End Road and Tithe Road to protect their property. A quote had been requested from Matt Lawson but had not been received to date. The Council were shown photographs taken earlier that day of the boundary between all of the houses into The Playspace. At this time there was no evidence of the homeowners fences being damaged due to people using The Playspace but they acknowledged their responsibility that should a further fence be required then this would be considered, stating that it is not the responsibility of the homeowners to provide the boundary.

They were also informed of the 12th October 2003 where the area will be marked out in accordance with the Plan and that leaflets were going to be delivered to every house in Wood End Road and Tithe Road informing them that this was happening and inviting them to attend and ask questions of committee members on hand.

The equipment that was recommended by their independent insurance assessor to be removed had now been removed. Any further equipment that we want removing would have to be up to The Playspace committee to organise.

The issue of either a Certificate of Lawfulness or Planning permission was raised after they were informed that due to the anonymous letter this subject was looked at and Debbie James was informed that one of the above would be required. The Council found this surprising that either of these would be required since the area's use was not changing, just being upgraded. It was agreed that this would be looked into further by a Councillor contacting the Planning department to ensure what we had been told was in fact correct and when the issue of ownership had been resolved.

They agreed to give £200.00 for the grass cutting and maintenance of the area for 2003 / 2004.

Following their meeting in July 2003 their accounts had been audited and it was suggested that some money should be used. A discussion held in July between the Parish Councillors suggested that some money should be donated to The Playspace and the figure of £5000.00 was talked about. Whilst this money is NOT confirmed, it does again prove that The Parish Council does offer their support to us.

Cllr. David Reedman was also present at this meeting and confirmed the application for £250.00 from the Bedford County Council Community Fund had been approved and we will hear in writing from them soon.

Issues then arising from this:

The quote submitted by Matt Lawson regarding the gate for the entrance was agreed in the meeting in July. As there seems to be motorcyclists returning to the area Debbie to chase Matt.

Action: Debbie James

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 28th October 2003, Church End. 7.30pm.

**Maintenance Morning / Local Concerns and Issues / Date for Marking
Out Area**

**SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2003
10.00 am THE PLAYSPLACE**

12.00 – 1.30 pm FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A reminder that a maintenance morning is planned for Sunday 12th October at 10.00 at The Playspace. Please bring cutters for brambles, spades, forks etc. to bring the site ready for winter.

Appeal for volunteers to come and help.

Whilst the maintenance is being done, Darren has agreed to be in charge of marking out to scale the area in accordance with the final design so everyone can get some impression of what the total project will look like.

Leaflets are to be delivered to all houses in Wood End Road and Tithe Road to invite residents along to come and look and members of the committee to be on hand to answer any questions that may be asked.

Appeal for volunteers to be present.

Action: Darren on The Day! Debbie to source spray paint and bring plans. Phillippa to deliver leaflets.

Mention was made of signs to be erected saying 'No Dogs'. Fonz (who unfortunately happened to be having a quiet drink in the pub at the time, but has the expertise to make these!) was drafted into the meeting and agreed to make 4 signs for the area. A Big Thank You for volunteering - (you did honest!!!)

Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday.

Driveway Sale

It was agreed that it was another really successful event. A BIG Thank you to all that helped to organise and take part in the day.

Petra and Eliot for letting us use the Pub again and helping with the posters.

Martin for opening the pub up early and being there all day.

Hilary and Maria for the Tea's, Coffee's, Cakes and Tombola Stalls.

Everyone that made a cake and donated a Tombola prize.

Mick and Margaret for providing the cups, tea urn and the excellent Burgers and Hot Dogs.

Phillippa, and everyone (cos I can't remember everyone that did) that delivered all the advertising leaflets.

Jon for putting out the advertising stakes.

Maria for contacting the Beds on Sunday.

Everyone that had a stall and stood out in the rain.

All those dressed up and were mascots for The Playspace. (We still missed the Chicken though!!!)

Anyone else that I have forgotten!!!!!!!!!!!!

It was mentioned that perhaps next year that it could be organised for the beginning of July due to chances of the weather being slightly better and more houses might take part to raise money for the summer holidays.

It was also said that an evening do should have been organised to finish off the day.

But all in all it was an excellent day and I think that everyone got rid of some junk, made a bit of money and had fun!

Crimebeat Grant

As you are aware due to the efforts of Zoë, Laura, Robert and Philip, some of the teenagers in the village, The Playspace was awarded £500 from Crimebeat towards a Youth shelter. The cheque for £450.00 is in the bank and I have a camera in order for the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire to come along, meet the four and have his picture taken presenting one of those really big cheques to them. (Once the camera is returned we get the other £50).

Action: Zoë to coordinate a date that would be convenient for them all to meet the High Sheriff and advise Debbie to contact Crimebeat.

Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation Grant and Invite.

To officially record that The Playspace has been awarded £500.00 from the Bedfordshire and Luton Community Foundation Grant. A thank you letter will be sent shortly.

We have been given an invitation to attend their Annual General Meeting at Streatley Village Hall on Tuesday 21st October 2003 from 7.30pm.

The Foundation seeks to encourage a coherent policy for charitable giving by linking those who wish to give and those who need funding.

Their meeting will enable us to find out about their past year and their plans for the future.

Action: Anyone interested in attending to contact Debbie. Their deadline for replies is 14.10.2003.

The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust) Grant

Again to officially record the award of £8000.00 from The Bedford Charity (The Harpur Trust). An acknowledgment and thank you letter will be sent shortly.

This grant now makes a substantial difference to our funding and we can now also consider the installation of the Multi-purpose climbing equipment, but we still need to be able to fund the installation and surfacing for this.

Fireworks Event

SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2003

From 6.00 PM

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The sub-committee for this event will consist of: Julie, Petra, Tanya, Phillippa, Bev, Hilary, Maria and anyone else that would like to help organise, please contact one of the above.

Mick and Margaret to be asked if they can provide their burger van.

A poster competition to be considered in place of Fancy Dress.

Donations of cash or fireworks are being actively sought.

Any Other Business

After the success of the Spring Newsletter it was agreed that we should do one for the autumn. This to be added to the agenda at the next meeting.

Frances has suggested that we hold an event every two months or so at the Cross Keys, i.e. a Take Away Evening (meal not people or parts of the pub!!!), a snap night, Beetle or Whist Drives etc, etc. These events will be perfect for the winter evenings and may encourage other locals to come to the pub and raise funds for The Playspace. (Without getting wet!!!) To be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2003

8.00PM

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ALL WELCOME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

