

KEMPSTON RURAL PLAYSPACE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5TH AUGUST **2003**

CROSS KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE

PRESENT: Tanya Collins, Frances White, Roger White, Maria Robinson, Philippa Stanbridge, Julie and Darren Pritchett, Jon Shilling, Bev Rinvenuto, Les Clayton.

APOLOGIES: Debbie James, Debbie Beresford

VISITOR: Mr R. Bales

Meeting opened at: 8.00pm

Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 10th July 2003 agreed.

TREASURY REPORT / BANK ACCOUNT NAME

The bank balance stood at £1842.20. Confirmed grants of £1000.00 from the Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust, £7000.00 from the Local Network Fund, £500 from Wootton Youth Group, £500 from Crimebeat, all to be added to the total balance, bearing in mind the grants are for specific items.

There was some discussion about a possible discrepancy between the total from the Sponsored Walk. £50.00 appears to be missing and Hilary is making enquiries to establish where this may be. It was agreed that the Bank Account Name would be changed to "Kempston Rural Playspace". Hilary agreed that she would be responsible for doing this.

GRANT FROM LOCAL NETWORK FUND / **FOOTBALL/BASKETBALL EQUIPMENT**

As most Committee Members are aware we have been successful in being granted £7000.00 from the Local Network Fund. The terms and conditions and conditions have now been signed and the cheque will be with us shortly. This is to purchase the equipment for the Football/Basketball area. (**See Parish Council Meeting and Sources of Funding and Company Applications.** It was discussed about what work we could do ourselves to cut the cost, Frances said that she may be able to borrow a digger for the groundwork and would be making enquiries. Matt Lawson has already offered his mini-digger if required.

MAINTENANCE OF PLAYSPLACE

The footpath to the Playspace needs to be re-surfaced. A letter is to be drafted to Pilgrims to request that the gardens be cleared next to the path, as due to the poor maintenance of them is affecting the access to the Playspace. It is believed they have some responsibility for the surface of the path and a request has been made for them to inspect the area with a view to resurfacing.

INSPECTION ROTA BOOK

Following the Parish Council Meeting and in order to comply with the Public Liability Insurance we have to check the area and equipment on a weekly basis and document the fact that we have. **This is compulsory and has to be inspected by the Parish Council at every meeting.** Bev has an "Inspection Book" in which the date of Inspection must be recorded, the person checking the area and any comments regarding the equipment for safety and current state of the whole space. This includes all nuts, bolts and general state of equipment/surfacing etc - this is not an exhaustive list! Bev is drawing up a list of volunteers that would be prepared to go onto a "Rota. The book will be given to the next person on the list after inspection. Any issues with the equipment or the area should be reported to either Debbie or Bev **immediately** in order they can contact the relevant person(s) to resolve.

Volunteers are sought to go onto the Rota, please if you can help contact Bev or Debbie so you can be added to the list.

SOURCES OF FUNDING AND COMPANY APPLICATIONS

Jon Shilling has a meeting with the Harpur Trust on Monday 18th August 2003. This is to apply for funding for the "Multi-Purpose" Twister. It is hoped that we will be able to submit an application for their consideration for the September allocation of funds. Due to issues surrounding ownership of the Playspace continuing, (See Parish Council Meeting), the funds for the

Football/Basketball area will be held until we know if we have been successful in the Harpur Trust application. If we are successful then no doubt to order the Football/Basketball area along with the "Multi-Purpose" Twister would be cheaper than ordering the items separately.

Julie stated that along with Bev, Tanya and Phillipa they would draft a letter to go with the Portfolio's to local companies asking for donations etc. and once completed would arrange for these to be sent out.

CONSTITUTION

Jon and Debbie to prepare a Constitution that can be agreed by the Committee. Most of the work has been completed as distributed prior to the Annual General meeting. Advice was sought from the Bedfordshire Council for Voluntary Services and they have made suggestions on what has already been published. This advice needs to be carefully considered with what we already have in order to come up with a definitive constitution for the Playspace.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Bev and Maria attended. Again they were very supportive of us and impressed with the organisation and finances of the Playspace and the dedication to date for the project to go ahead.

The report from Wicksteed Park regarding the current equipment had been returned to them giving some minor issues for concern. More importantly though they had arranged for an Insurance assessor to attend the location and they reported back on the fact that the Pink elephant grip handle on the right hand side was missing and surface was uneven. The old climbing frame, pole and the wooden stumps for previous seating needed to be removed along with the middle junior swing due to safety issues. The Parish Council are arranging for all of this to be removed. The Pink Elephant will be removed unless we can resolve the handle and surfacing issue immediately. We need to contact Wicksteed Park to obtain a quote for repair if we would like this to remain. There was some discussion regarding fencing that was owned by residents backing onto the Playspace that was damaged and falling into the area. This is considered to be a hazard and The Parish Council were going to take action to resolve this issue.

The Ownership issue was raised and whilst at this time The Parish Council are prepared to accept responsibility for the area it is still unclear who actually owns the land. They are making enquiries to this but in the light of the Local Concerns and issues The Playspace has been advised NOT to install any equipment until this has been resolved. They are confident that if they do own the land now they will.

VOLUNTEER FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

Again following the Parish Council meeting, they are insisting that someone from Wood End that can also represent the Playspace become a Parish Councillor. We desperately need a volunteer. Susan Bottoms, Clerk to the Parish Council can offer a job description to anyone that is interested. She can be contacted on 01234 768 539 or s.bottoms@talk21.com. In essence it

is a voluntary position with a requirement to attend their monthly meetings – normally held on the last Tuesday of every month – where you listen to what is being discussed and come to decisions on those topics. The job involves being a representative for the area and to raise issues to the Council from it. It is important for us to support the Parish Council as we need their support - “you scratch my back – I’ll scratch yours!!!!

SPORTS / FUN DAY

The fun day was cancelled due to lack of time in which to arrange a Fun Day and coinciding with the main holiday period. We will try to arrange this for 2004.

BEACH PARTY

The Sub-committee is Petra, Maria, Phillippa, Julie and Debbie. A meeting is being arranged so this can be organised. Full details very shortly. Roger White has agreed to run a ‘Pinball Game’, sand has been donated free of charge as has the disco and DJ’s.

Phillippa will be organising a raffle - all prizes as soon as you can to her or left at the pub.

All you need to do after giving a prize is find your grass skirts and brightly coloured Hawaiian shirts!!!

Saturday 30th August 2003 @ 8.00pm Cross Keys!

LOCAL CONCERNS AND ISSUES

As we are all aware some residents have now contacted the Committee with concerns regarding the Playspace. Most of the concerns are the level of noise and the potential for Anti-social behaviour once equipment has been installed. Various rumours have been circulating as to what equipment will be installed and the design of that. Jon went through our aims and objectives and stated that all of our meetings are Public and open to all. We welcome residents with any concerns to attend and raise all issues in order that we can deal with them at an early stage. Various points were discussed and it was stated what the Committee considered to be their responsibilities. This did not include ‘policing’ the area. Our responsibilities include the installation and maintenance of the equipment and area.

It was agreed that we would mark out the area with spray paint to define where each piece of equipment was going, to actual size.

After there would a couple of hours where members of the Committee would be present with the current plans so if any resident would like to discuss the plans or any concerns they

could. These concerns would then be discussed at both the next Playspace and Parish Council Meetings.

A date for this to be done will be arranged and all members of the Community will be notified.

A Mr Bales attended the meeting and expressed concern regarding anti-social behaviour and the design and placing of the equipment. He was shown copies of our portfolio and overall plan. After discussion he appeared to be pleased with the organisation and dedication of the Committee. Jon thanked Mr Bales for attending the meeting and openly airing his views.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items raised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2003

8.00PM

CROSS KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE