

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees  
held in the Community Hall on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. J. Meischke  
Mr. I. Knight Mr. D. Stock  
The Clerk (Mrs. J. Allsop)

## **1 Apologies for absence**

None.

## **2 Minutes of Meeting held Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record during the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2009.

## **3 Matters arising**

None.

## **4 New Tennis Courts-update**

Nothing to report.

## **5 Change of Gas Supplier**

Mr. Meischke said that the change over from British Gas to Npower is now complete. British Gas will be refunding the Community Hall bank account with £186.01 in the next two weeks.

The first two invoices from Npower were grossly incorrect, with one invoice in excess of £3,000. NPower promptly issued correct invoices before the direct debit payments were due. To date, Npower have debited a total of £ 214.98 for the supply of gas.

## **6 Replacement External Door**

Mr. Meischke said that on investigation he could only find one manufacture that is able to supply the grade of metal door required for the entrance door on the car-park side of the Community Hall. All the other manufacturers only supply very heavy gauge steel doors.

The approximate cost will be between £700 to £1,000, including a steel doorframe, fixtures and fitting.

## **7 Locks**

Mr. Poulton said that the new Main Hall lock, fitted at the request of the Watton Youth Drop Inn, is faulty. The old lock has now been refitted whilst the faulty lock is returned to Laidlaws for repair or replacement.

The Clerk to return the lock to the suppliers (Laidlaw Solutions Limited) asking them to either repair the lock or supply a replacement one.

**Action: J. Allsop**

## **8 Sun Stopper Blinds**

Sunstopper Blinds and Awnings have repaired the two broken blinds in the Pavilion.

## **9 Cleaning of Community Hall**

Hardgen Elite (Contract Cleaners) have done an excellent job of cleaning the changing room, showers and corridor area and more recently the Pavilion, kitchen, toilets and corridor areas.

## **10 Storage for hirers**

Mr. Poulton said he had been contacted by Beane Valley Children's Centre who are expanding their activities from September and need storage space at the Community Hall. If we are unable to accommodate their request, they may be forced to find an alternative venue.

Mr. Poulton suggested that one of the referee changing rooms be made available as storage space as this room is rarely, if ever used. The Trustees inspected the referee changing room and agreed that this would be a good solution.

Mr. Knight said he believed that the Football Club would periodically need the use of the two small changing rooms. He agreed to contact them to clarify the situation.

**Action: I. Knight**

## 11 Request from Beane Valley for play area to be fenced off

Mr. Poulton received the following e-mail, dated 26<sup>th</sup> June, from Lif Bishop (Beane Valley Children's Centre).

'The parents who come to our groups have asked if there is any possibility of the play area around the play equipment being fenced off. They are concerned about dog mess and feel that the children are more secure if there was a fence. Most play areas are enclosed these days.

Is this something you could pursue for us please?'

Mr. Poulton has spoken with Lif Bishop about the problem and the main concern is that some of the children are frightened of dogs.

Mr. Poulton said that over 20 years ago the play area did have fencing around it. However, it was fraught with problems and the fencing got repeatedly knocked down by the footballers and it was eventually removed.

The Trustees discussed the problem and agreed that there were several problems with installing a fence. Firstly, it would make the cutting of this section of sportsfield hedge very difficult. The height of the fence would also be an issue and could be a safety problem particularly to football players running into the fence. In addition, it would be very costly to install the fencing.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council do not install fencing around the play area.

## 12 Repairs to the roof

Parish Councillors approved, via e-mail, City Roofing Contractors quotation of £585(plus VAT) dated 24<sup>th</sup> June for the repair work to the Community Hall as follows.

'Replace broken roof slates to front and rear of property with new to match existing.

Re-fix and re-dress lead cover flashing to front and rear of property and re-seal beneath window seals with silicone mastic.

Repair and re-fix guttering where broken to rear of property.'

Mr. Poulton said that the work will be done in the next week.

## 13 Repairs to the toilet taps

Mr. Poulton said that some of the taps in the internal toilets have not been working correctly causing water to spray everywhere. One of the Watton Youth Drop Inn volunteers, Andrew Neil who is a plumber by trade, has sorted out the problem.

## 14 New hose reel for Changing Room

The hose pipe in the visitors changing room is damaged and making the area damp.

It was agreed that this problem would be resolved by purchasing a hose-reel and fitting it in the cubicle between the changing rooms and the showers.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council agree that a hose-reel be purchased.

## 15 Any Other Business

- **East Herts Village Survey**

East Herts Council have asked us to complete a village halls survey.

Mr. Poulton has partly completed the form and asked the Clerk to fill in the remaining details and return it to East Herts Council.

**Action: J. Allsop**

- **Broom**

Mr. Meischke has purchased a new broom for the kitchen.

## 16 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October at 15.30 hours.

- **The meeting closed at 3.55 hours.**