

**Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

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 5th January 2010**

The minutes, were accepted and signed as a true record during the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2010 with one amendment as follows.

- Page 1 item 4, New Tennis Court update, penultimate paragraph.  
 ‘The Trustees noted that, if the Parish Council agrees to adopt the new Tennis Court when the work has been completed, that there will be .....’  
 Amended to read:  
 ‘The Trustees noted that, when the Parish Council agrees to adopt the new Tennis Court when the work has been completed, there will be .....’

**3 Matters Arising**

None.

**4 Replacement of Exterior Door**

Brian Bunyan agreed to install the replacement exterior door before the end of March. However, he has been delayed while waiting for a replacement part for his plainer. Mr. Meischke to chase. **Action: J. Meischke**

The Clerk said that Michael Lewis asked if he could meet on-site to discuss the replacement lock options for the new door. Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to arrange to meet Michael Lewis while Brian Bunyan is on site. **Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke**

**5 Replacement lock**

The Main Hall lock purchased by Watton Youth Drop Inn went faulty again and was returned to the suppliers, Laidlaw Solutions, in February. This is the second time this particular lock has gone wrong. A new lock was supplied, but when Michael Lewis (A. P Access) tried to fit it, he found the key would not fit in the lock. The lock number was found to be incorrect and the lock was returned to Laidlaw Solutions asking them to return it to their supplier and supply the correct numbered lock. A copy of A. P. Access’s invoice for two visits was enclosed with the lock asking them to reimburse the Community Hall. The Clerk has today phoned Laidlaw Solutions to find out when the replacement lock will be supplied, but was unable to speak to the person she has been dealing with. The Clerk to chase. **Action: J. Allsop**

**6 Regular hirer and keys**

- **Tennis Club**  
 Mr. Knight has requested a set of keys to the changing room corridor entrance to the Community Hall and the changing rooms, for use by the Tennis Club. The Tennis Club would liaise with both the Football and Cricket Clubs to ensure there were no clashes over the use of the changing room facilities.  
**Recommendation:** The Parish Council agrees to the Tennis Club’s request and a key-holder agreement is issued. The Tennis Club would be sent an invoice to pay for the keys required.

- **Regular hirers**

Dave Boddy has requested a set of keys to the Community Hall. Mr. Poulton said that the keys are collected from the Clerk at erratic times on a Thursday. Dave Boddy lays out his safety-mats in the Main Hall in the early afternoon, well in advance of his hiring start time of 1800. The Clerk notifies him when there is a hiring on a Thursday afternoon so that he does not lay his safety-mats down until that hiring is over.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council agrees to Dave Boddy's request and a key-holder agreement is issued. Dave Boddy would be sent an invoice to pay for the keys required.

- **Badminton Club**

Mr. Stock said that as a Trustee he holds a set of keys to the Community Hall, which he himself uses to open the Sports Hall on Badminton-Club nights; thus avoiding the need for keys to be collected from the Clerk.

He suggested that at times when he was going to be absent, it would make life easier for the Clerk if he could hand his keys to Vernon Dunhill for the purpose of gaining access to the Sports Hall on the Badminton-Club night(s) concerned.

It was agreed that, as a member of the Badminton Club, Vernon Dunhill be authorised to use Mr. Stock's keys (in his absence) to gain entry to the Sports Hall on Badminton-Club nights only.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council agrees that Mr. Dunhill signs a Key-Holder Agreement to this effect.

## 7 New tennis court facilities/MPPA facilities

Mr. Knight said that this item is progressing.

The Tennis Club has applied to County Councillor Bryan Hammond for a grant from his locality budget and they are reasonably optimistic of success.

## 8 COMMA Grant Application

The final preparation of the COMMA grant application form will commence during week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Mr. Knight is still waiting for a response from Alastair Woodgate (Rumball Sedgwick) confirming in principle that the Diocesan Board will lease the land to the Parish Council.

The preferential use by the Tennis Section of the Sports and Social Club of the MPPA was discussed at length. It was agreed to review/clarify this position when the new tennis court had been completed.

## 9 Update insurance

Mr. Poulton has reviewed all items in the Community Hall and revised the insurance cover required.

An insurance quotation of £1,469.88 from Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd has been accepted.

## 10 Gas readings

Mr. Poulton said that he and Mr. Meischke have experienced lots of problems with Npower since they became the Community Hall's gas providers. There seems to be a problem with the gas readings, which are unreasonably high. Mr. Poulton has repeatedly tried to phone Npower requesting a visit from Transco and today had to resort to contacting the complaints department. The problem seems to have occurred after the meter went from a reading of 9999 and tripped over to start again from 0000.

- **Electricity contract**

The Electricity contract with British Gas is due for renewal in August 8<sup>th</sup> 2010. Currently the standing charges are 35.340p per day and the unit charge is 18.970p per kWh.

British Gas are offering a new two-year contract as follows.

Standing charges 39.030p per day

Unit charge is 13.610p per kWh.

**Recommendation:** Based on the problems experienced on switching the Community Hall gas usage from British Gas to Npower, the Community Hall Trustees recommend that the Parish Council authorise that the electricity supply remains with British Gas. Especially in view of the fact that the unit charge offered in the new contract is lower than the current price paid.

## 11 Six Monthly Inspection

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke agreed to do the 6-monthly check of the MPPA, Play Area on sportsfield and Community Hall equipment over the weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April.

## 12 Hire agreements - “Insurance for users”

Mr. Poulton said that it had come to his attention that none of the current hire agreements refer to child protection. Also, that the Sports and Social Club hire agreement only refers to insurance in part two.

**Recommendation:** the Parish Council agrees the following amendments to the hire agreements.

- **Casual hire and regular hirers agreement**

The following addition to be made to the casual hirers agreement as a new item 1.

‘Whenever there are children present at an event in the Community Hall or sportsfield, the hirer shall appoint a person responsible for their protection.’

- **Sports and Social Club hire agreement**

The following additions to be made the ‘Annual Agreement for the use of specified Sports Facilities within the Village’ directly after the first two bullet points.

The following two items are applicable to both parts 1 and 2 of the agreement.

1. The Sports and Social Club is responsible for any insurance required to cover the loss or theft of its equipment or property kept within or around the Community Hall building.
2. Whenever there are children present at an event in the Community Hall or sportsfield, the hirer shall appoint a person responsible for their protection.

Item 10 under Pavilion to be deleted, namely: ‘The Sports and Social Club is responsible for any insurance required to cover the loss or theft of its equipment or property kept within or around the Community Hall building.’

## 13 Replace six strip lights in the Sports Hall

Mr. Poulton said there are currently seven lights out in the Main Hall. Michael Lewis (A. P. Access, The Beeches, School Lane) has his own scaffolding and has agreed to provide a quotation for replacing the lights.

Mr. Poulton to liaise with Mr. Lewis.

**Action: N. Poulton**

## 14 Antisocial behaviour from footballers

Mr. Poulton has received complaints that some of the Football players and their supporters’ language is a bit ‘ripe’ at times and is causing offence to others using the area.

Mr. Poulton read out an extract from the publication ‘First Feature’ as follows.

**‘Nottingham**

In Nottingham the antisocial behaviour problem was of a different sort. The friends group of one of the city’s parks was concerned about antisocial behaviour in the park which centred on aggressive swearing and alcohol abusing football teams, their members and supporters.

This was having a serious detrimental effect on other park users, such as families and dog walkers, most weekends and some weekdays.

The group raised the issue with the local councillor who in turn raised it with the council. Since then, Nottingham has taken a range of actions to reduce the antisocial behaviour in the park. Action included.

- running a respect for park campaign
- getting sports teams to sign terms and conditions for use of the park
- drawing respect lines on all council pitches
- putting up posters in all changing rooms
- holding regular meetings with the Football Association and Referees to discuss teams or incidents.
- Extra Community Police Officer controls, and
- The use of civil tools such as acceptable behaviour contracts and injunctions against offending individuals/teams where required.’

After discussion the following recommendation was agreed.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council write to the Sports and Social Club asking them to address the antisocial language problem.

## 15 Request to erect a ball stopper from the Cricket Club

Mr. Poulton read out the following e-mail (dated 25<sup>th</sup> March) from Martin Tipper.

'I have another matter for your consideration please.

We would like to erect a ball stopper barrier against the hedge that runs from the groundsman's shed down towards the pavilion. You may recall we have tried this before but the fence has never been substantial enough to withstand a season; it usually ends up being trampled down.

One of our Members has acquired some 4 x 4 posts that we propose cutting to a height of say 500-600mm and then affix a kicker type boarding to the base - height to be agreed. This would only stop the rolling ball from entering the hedge but would potentially save us a lot of ball hunting time and money for balls we can't find.

The fence we have put up previously was too flimsy but by sinking in 4 x 4s we would hope to resolve this problem. Do the Parish Council have any objections or matters of concern? We would of course put the posts as far in to the hedge as we can, but mindful of the fact that we would have to resolve the matter of allowing the hedge to be trimmed at the due time.

Grateful for your assistance please'

After discussion, the following recommendation was agreed.

**Recommendation:** The Parish Council agrees to the Cricket Club erecting a ball-stopper fence proved that the fence is erected at the beginning of the Cricket season and removed at the end of the season.

Mr. Knight to inform the Cricket Club at the Sports and Social Club meeting tonight that the above recommendation is being made to the Parish Council.

## 16 Dates for the Civic Year 2010/2011

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 1530
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 1530
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 1530
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 1530
  
- The meeting closed at 1640