

**The Gransdens Sportsfield and Recreational Association  
Minutes of the Committee meeting 09/07  
Held at The Manor House on Thursday 24 September 2009**

**1. Present**

Claire Walton (CWa), Charlie Whinney (CWh), Ian Darroch (ID), Stuart Titmus (ST), Celia Chignell (CC), Chris Turner (CT), Nik Johnson (NJ)

**2. Apologies**

Tina Elkington (TE), Barry Girling (BG)

**3. Matters arising from the minutes:**

09/06.1: ST has been quoted £2000 to erect posts and netting. The committee agreed that that was too much. **[ACTION 1: ST to source some netting and CC will arrange for posts to be erected]**

CT has not received a cheque from Paul Phoenix for hire of the field. **[ACTION 2: CWh to chase payment]**

09/06.2: There has been no response from Martin Adams to dig out the ditches **[ACTION 3: CWh to chase and if no response to ask Stuart Bygraves to do the work. A skip will be required to remove the waste]**

09/06.3: The gutters have not been cleared yet. **[ACTION 4: ST to ask Hammy again]**

09/06.4: CT confirmed that the Chequers FC have paid there invoice. The invoice from David Hall for repairing the showers has not been paid yet. **[ACTION 5: ST to ask David Hall to send another invoice to CT]**

09/06.5: CT has electricity bill and will read the meters. The new split meters have not been read since they were installed. **[ACTION 6: CT to read the meters and CWh to check when the year since installation ends]**

09/06.6: The licence for alcohol at the bonfire has been applied for.

09/06.7: CC will obtain keys from CWh and check whether the toilet is still blocked. **[ACTION 7: CWh to obtain keys from CT and make necessary cuttings for two complete sets and an extra set for GGYFC. ACTION 8: CWa to give NJ a key security form for completion]**

09/06.8: A cricket pitch would take 2½ years to prepare. Peter Round is keen to talk about it. The possibility of a new artificial pitch was raised. Peter Round will quote for the hedges.

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** the minutes were approved.

**5. Bonfire Night**

There was a meeting on 22 September. The format will be similar to previous years with the PTA erecting the marquee, Scouts providing the barbecue and the Revellers organising the bar and gate. NJ will write to the fire brigade and neighbours. Flyers will be distributed via school book bags, playgroup and nursery. Louisa Smith's dad, Kevin, will run the firework display starting at 6:30pm. The bonfire will be lit after the fireworks. Fireworks expenditure will increase from £650 to £1000 this year. It was agreed to increase the price of adult tickets

to £4.50 (£4 in advance) and maintain the child ticket price at £3.50 (£3 in advance). NJ will put posters in neighbouring villages including Abbotsley, Waresley and Eltisley and will ask if some of the older boys from the youth football club would sell glo sticks on the night.

Help will be needed on the day to build the bonfire and on the night with stewarding. Also volunteers to clear up on Sunday morning and when the ashes are cool. **[ACTION 9: ST to ask if Chequers FC would like to help in return for some of the proceeds from the event]**

Tom Rundle has asked to be paid for his services. It was agreed to see how much he wanted and whether an alternative arrangement could be found. Spillage has asked if they could have some tickets for guests and it was agreed they could have 5-10 tickets.

## 6. Sewage

CT has spoken to Paul Jose who has tried to contact someone at the Environmental Agency with no success. **[ACTION 10: CT to contact the Environmental Agency]**

## 7. Treasurer's report

Last year, Towergate wanted to quote for the sportsfield insurance. **[ACTION 11: CT to look into insurance renewal]**

The GGYFC have been playing Saturdays and Sundays. A review of last year's games is required (year ending 31 August) and the club invoiced. Mid Beds Soccer coaching is on Fridays during term time and is charged £15 per week. **[ACTION 12: CT to send invoice to Martin Bennet for GGYFC and Andy Passman for Mid Beds Soccer]**

## 9. Use of the tennis courts for other sports

CWh had received a request from a football club from Gamlingay to use the tennis courts for football training one day a week in the winter. ID responded as the tennis club representative. The nets cannot be taken out, the club is thriving all year round and there is tennis coaching on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The next round of funding will be to build the rebound wall and install new floodlights costing around £25,000 which the tennis club is raising. The GSRA committee agreed that the tennis club has spent a lot of money on the facility since the original multi surface courts and it agreed that the courts should only be used for tennis.

The Sand Road car park was discussed.  $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$  of use is by the GGYFC. ID asked that Andy Passman reminds parents to use the Caxton Road car park for Mid Beds Soccer coaching on Fridays and not the Sand Road car park. **[ACTION 13: CWa to inform Andy Passman]**

## 10. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

NJ and ID explained the background to the project. The Parish Council was approached by the school who wanted to upgrade the tennis court into a multi use games area. The PC agreed for the school to set up a group to plan and raise funds for the project. A group was set up and is known as MUGA. The plan is to have recessed goals at either end, convert the fencing height (imperial to metric), lay carpet flooring marked for four mini tennis courts, basket ball and five aside football with rebound quality surrounding not boarding. MUGA has already raised £10,000 from Hunts DC, £2,500 from the Poors Land Fund and £2,500 from the PTA. It intends to employ a fund raiser to raise £45,000 for the project. In order to raise the funds the project will need to benefit the larger community rather than only the school. MUGA approached the PC with the idea that the facility would be for the school children and the village residents after school with gates being locked at dusk and a booking arrangement.

The PC supported the planning application however there were complaints from neighbouring residents. As a result the PC has revised its support and will not allow use of the facility in the evenings and at weekends. It also wants to restrict the number and type of community groups that can use it. MUGA have since met and feel they cannot continue with these stipulations.

CWh commented that having two groups looking after sports facilities was inefficient and that there should be one approach to sport for a village of this size. NJ wants the GSRA committee to support MUGA's work and restart the group. He asked for the committee to vote on the issue.

CC responded on behalf of the PC. The PC supports the school use of the facility. It wants to restrict community use to later afternoon (3.30-6.30pm) due to complaints from neighbouring residents concerned that their peace will be disturbed. The PC wants sporting events to be held at the sports field.

There was some discussion about where the complaints were coming from. ID pointed out that MUGA had approached residents in Bakers Court and there were no objections. CC spoke of disturbances in the past by youths hanging around the area.

ID left the meeting to pick up his son.

NJ commented that the tennis court in its present state is a danger and would like the GSRA to support the changes that MUGA have proposed. Several members of the committee were not prepared to vote on the issue without more information. **[ACTION 14: NJ to circulate a report and put a proposal to the vote at the next meeting]**

## 11. Fund Raising

CWh and BG met with Jason Dixon who has since drawn two sets of plans to extend the pavilion. The second proposal requires more reengineering of internal walls and will cost 30-40% more than the first proposal. Jason will charge up to 10% of the total cost for project management.

The PC has agreed to increase the sportsfield lease to 25 years or greater as requested to benefit fund raising.

During building work units would be hired to ensure the nursery and football club can still function.

At the next meeting the GSRA committee will decide which option to take to the PC. The committee can make a decision about project management after the meeting with the PC.

**[ACTION 15: CWa to circulate the plans to the committee members and trustees.  
ACTION 16: ALL to consider which planning option to support.]**

## 12. Next meeting:

Wednesday 21 October, 8pm at the Pavilion.