

The Gransden Sportsfield and Recreational Association
Minutes of the Committee meeting 08/01
Held at Old Dixies, Church Street on Tuesday 6 May 2008

Present

George Craze	Lynne Taylor
Nick Foster	Chris Turner
Charlie Whinney	Nik Johnson
Claire Walton	Andy Wilson

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Kevin Diss

2 Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were circulated, approved and signed by Nick Foster.

3 Matters Arising

The meeting began with a discussion between the outgoing and incoming committee members to gain an understanding of the current circumstances of the Association.

- Lynne advised that the incumbent trustees George Craze, Nick Foster, Lynne Taylor and Ken Middleton wish to resign. The committee need to agree a minimum of three replacements in September 2008. As the outgoing Trustee Lynne will submit the new Trustees together with the Chairman's report and Income and Expenditure report to the Charities Commission by 31 October 2008, which is 10 months after the financial year end.

ACTION 1: ALL

- It was agreed that the AGM had highlighted some issues with the Constitution that should be addressed as soon as possible. One important issue to be addressed is the number of members that form the committee. The number was dropped to 8 to enable valid meetings to take place. George Craze was chairman when the nursery and playgroup were co-opted because it was believed that they should have a say and know what was going on. An Extraordinary General Meeting will need to be called to amend the Constitution. An EGM requires 21 days notice, which may be published on the village notice boards and roundabout, the Reading Rooms would be the venue for the meeting. Charlie Whinney stated that the Committee should be guided by the Objects clause of the Association as given this he did not believe that either the nursery or playgroup were entitled to sit on the Committee. Chris Turner pointed out that the nursery provides a large proportion of the association's funds. Lynne Taylor informed the meeting that the owner of the nursery, Beverley Hoare, had not attended a meeting in the past year and had sent a letter explaining her position.
- Lynne explained the Playgroup has been given a license for its land by the Parish Council. The Playgroup contributes to CCTV, but nothing to the car park, paths, etc. Des Merrill has inferred that the playgroup would be willing to contribute towards the car park if other users were asked to contribute, e.g. the football club.
- Funds were discussed. The association has often needed to ask for money from the Parish Council. Fund raising events have been unsuccessful. A couple of events had lost money. Cheese and Wine events have raised £200-£300.
- The nursery has a license that is renewed every 2 or 3 years. The last renewal date was March 2007. Payment of electricity by the nursery was discussed which lead to discussion of weekend use of the pavilion. There is a need for a storage facility to remove the bulky

- items from within the nursery so that the changing rooms are more accessible. It was questioned whether the nursery knew that the pavilion was being used by the youth football teams on Sundays. If the nursery knew then better access was likely to be arranged and cleaning could be more effectively timed. Charlie Whinney asked if Jenny and David, the caretakers of the Reading Rooms, might be an option for cleaning of the pavilion.
- There was a discussion of the
 - Users of the Sportsfield
 - Andy Passman has an after school youth football training session on Friday afternoons.
 - Gransden Chequers Football Club has 3 football teams (2 Saturday and 1 Sunday league, with training on Wednesday evening).
 - Gransden Youth Football Club (1 Saturday team and training on Sunday)
 - A children's cricket club is being tested, but not yet formalised.
 - Crown and Cushion football (with only occasional use on the multi sports area)
 - Tennis Club.
 - Other village sports include
 - Badminton club which currently plays in Little Gransden village hall. Three years ago the club looked into attaching a badminton hall to the Sports field pavilion.
 - Bowling club
 - Yoga
 - Aerobics
 - Pete Day used to run a youth club at the Reading Rooms.

 - Chris Turner asked about the accounts section for the tennis club. The COIF is a charities fund held specifically on behalf of the tennis club.
 - Nik Johnson asked if the remit of the Association could be broadened. Lynne pointed out that the nursery has agreed to vacate the pavilion one Friday per year. This is for the ball every other year, but could be used for some fundraising/sporting event in the intervening years.
 - Nick Foster was asked what things he thought were important for the incoming committee to know about and act on.
 - In the event of a power failure contact George Craze, David Brown or Brian Fox.
 - Sewerage needs resolved. The source of the water ingress leak into the sewerage tank has not been found. Poor's Land fund charity has put aside £3,000 for repairs. BSG from Potton have been involved in the exploratory work. Anglia Water has been contacted to find out what attaching to the mains sewerage would involve.
 - The Bonfire event has been done in union with the PTA in recent years. An alcohol license requires a substantial lead time. The Poor's Land fund pays for the extra insurance required for the bonfire (approx £20 per month).
ACTION 2: Chris Turner to check whether the £200 requested from the Poor's Land fund has been reimbursed and if not to write to formally request the funds c/o Diane Taylor.
 - Renewals include electricity, notice to the nursery by letter every year, grass cutting annual contract (Council for main area), Steve Wilson used to cut around the nursery and remove litter (£225 per month).
 - Storage container required to store nets and nursery equipment out of the pavilion. Quotes for a container of £1,500 have been received from Des Merrill.
 - Tarmac for the car park would cost around £16,000.
 - Hedging is done every couple of years and costs £600-£700 by Lattenbury.
 - New CCTV put up 6 months ago and costs £400-£500 per year. Kevin Diss is contracted to maintain it.

Nick Foster and Lynne Taylor left the meeting. **ACTION 3: Charlie** to write to Lynne Taylor, Nick Foster and Ken Middleton to formally thank them for their contribution to the Association.

4 Election of Chairman

On a proposal from Claire Walton, seconded by Andy Wilson, Charlie Whinney was unanimously elected Chairman.

5 Future Plans

Charlie Whinney suggested a summer sports event (such as a 5 mile walk) with barbecue and to put a notice on the sports field with contact details should someone wish to rent the field for an event. Up to £1,500 pa could be raised if the football clubs (3 Chequers teams, Friday evening and Sunday morning youth training) paid for their use of the pitches. He would like to raise funds capital expenditure on a soundproofed indoor sports hall with a good clearance and a wooden trim trail. There are other people in the village who are willing to help with the events and fundraising including Deb Greenland, Jane Hodges, Val Pearson (professional fund raiser) and Marisa Crook (chartered accountant working with charities). It was agreed that the building of a sports hall and trim trail would be investigated and a website and email address would be set up for the sports field.

Nik Johnson suggested fundraising events might include the Sports Relief Mile, a village fun run/walk/cycle, an event where clubs swap sports and compete. He also offered to run a sports injury clinic, give talks at, for example, Barnabas Oley and the Women's Institute.

Chris Turner suggested entertainments for fundraising as he has done in Abbotsley.

George Craze pointed out that he had been responsible for establishing the nursery in the pavilion. Having the pavilion occupied means it is kept warm and has not suffered from damp. He also suggested that sports hall include indoor cricket nets and the best position would be where the bonfire is usually built.

It was agreed that a long term plan needs to be formed and quantified. The following actions for the committee were agreed:

- **ACTION 4: Nik Johnson** to plan a summer sporting event and the Bonfire Night event.
- **ACTION 5: Chris Turner, Charlie Whinney and George Craze** to investigate quantity surveyors and architects for the building.
- **ACTION 6: Charlie Whinney** to obtain three quotes for upgrading/repairing the car park.
- **ACTION 7: Claire Walton** to investigate building a website and advertising in Roundabout. Nik and Claire to draft a publication for Roundabout introducing the Association Committee members and the aims for Committee.
- **ACTION 8: George Craze and Charlie Whinney** to investigate the construction and potential use of a trim trail, George to contact Girton Parish Council to discuss its trim trail.
- **ACTION 9: Charlie Whinney** to draft changes to the constitution with Diane Taylor.
- **ACTION 10: Chris Turner** to ensure that the number of banking signatories meets with the Charities Commission guideline and make necessary changes to banking arrangements.

6 AOB

Andy Wilson reported on behalf of the tennis club. The club is replacing the flood lights for down lighters at a cost of £10,000-£15,000. A subcommittee has been established to raise the funds for the project. The club also wants to place brown signs at the water tower on Caxton Road and on Sand Road directing traffic to the tennis courts at a cost of £400 for the two.

ACTION 11: All To discuss the Tennis Club request for the Association contribute to cost.

7 Date of Next Meeting

8pm Thursday 3 July at 22 Church Street, Great Gransden.