

KEMPSTON RURAL PLAYSPLACE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY
4TH DECEMBER 2003

CROSS KEYS PUBLIC HOUSE

Present: Philippa Stanbridge, Darren Pritchett, Frances White, Petra Longhorn, Debbie James, Mick Ward.

Chris Lowe @ Parish Council Meeting.

Apologies: Jon Shilling, Bev Rinvenuto, Hilary and Zoë Turwicz, Maria Robinson, Ronnie and Millie Barclay.

Visitors: Dave and Teresa Liddiatt

Minutes of Meeting Held Monday 3rd November 2003

Agreed, no issues raised.

Treasury Report

The Bank Account currently stands at **approximately £10649.85**. This total is estimated due to Hilary not being able to bank all monies received to date due to the change of name - (see under).

This total includes additions of £200.00 from Kempston Rural Parish Council for grass cutting and maintenance.

£250.00 Bedford County Council Community Fund for 2003 (see Bedfordshire County Council Community Fund 2003).

Approximately £300.00 made from the Bonfire and Fireworks evening.

Also, deducted was £66.00 for grass cutting to date.

The total does not include £1000.00 from the Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust, or the £8000.00 from The Bedford Charity, (The Harpur Trust) which is promised on receipt of equipment ordered.

Bank Account Name

We are now officially known as: **Kempston Rural Playspace**. Hilary has changed this at the Bank and new stationary etc should be with us shortly.

Fundraising

Roger White has been given the opportunity to acquire a large 27 cms high Easter Egg in a basket for £35.25 Inc. VAT (I know we have not had Christmas yet!!!!).

In his work with Macmillan they are brought to raise money, the maximum so far has been £600.00! They needed to be ordered by 4th December 2003 and therefore no discussion could take place with the Committee, so Debbie James made the decision that we should have one, in the hope that the Committee would agree to it.

Petra gave permission that the egg could be displayed in the Cross Keys.

Action: Roger to take delivery of egg at the end of January 2004
Hilary to raise cheque on receipt of a receipt!

Company Applications

Phillippa said that these were all now in envelopes, addressed and ready to go. All that was needed was 36 stamps at 34 pence, total of £12.24.

There was some discussion as to the timing of delivery, especially as we are so close to Christmas, the feeling was that the Portfolio's were either going to be lost within the Company it was sent to or the request denied, as Companies would have probably donated already this year to other causes. It was decided that they would be sent out the second week in the New Year in the hope of maximising our opportunity for donations.

Action: Phillippa to buy stamps required
Hilary to reimburse money for stamps on receipt.

Constitution

Debbie is still appealing for any volunteers to go through current constitution and upgrade it suitable for charitable status. Please contact Debbie if you can help.

This will be looked at early in the New Year.

Action: Any Volunteers

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council Meeting was the same night as our meeting. Chris Lowe attended the Parish Council Meeting and then 'walked' back to catch the end of The Playspace meeting:

Update on Ownership Issue: Members of the Parish Council had visited their Bank and had gained access to the secure box. There was NO Information that confirmed ownership of the Playspace by the Parish Council.

This issue is important to the Parish Council as it is to The Playspace and strenuous efforts will now be made to resolve this issue by The Chairman of the Parish Council will contact Daphne Watson, (previous Chair of The Playspace) who stated at one of our first meetings that she had this information but did not wish to disclose it to the current Playspace Committee.

Chris Lowe is going to work from the angle of contacting residents and the original builders.

Susan Bottoms, The Clerk to the Parish Council is going to contact Barry Thomas, who's family it is believed either gave or sold The Playspace area to the Parish Council and ask him to draft a letter stating that it was his families wishes that the land was handed to the Parish Council for the use of a Playspace and finally The Parish Council via their Solicitor is to lay claim against the land for the Parish Council.

Clearly there is no indication how long all of these inquires will take to complete but there is a strong commitment by The Parish Council to resolve this issue as like us are more than aware that our project is 'on hold' as is the application for funding from 'Living Spaces' part of the National Lottery, until this issue comes to a conclusion.

On the issue of the gate to go between the new fence and the footpath, after discussion, The Parish Council stated that it cannot give any further monies to us in this financial year, especially whilst it remains unclear whether the land belongs to the Parish Council, it is unable to justify to the auditors further expenditure at this time. As already stated in the Treasury Report, The Parish Council have given us £200.00 for grass cutting and maintenance of The Playspace.

The date of their next meeting is Thursday 22nd January 2004 at 7.30pm at Church Hall, Church End.

Bedfordshire County Council Community Fund 2003

Following an application to Bedfordshire County Council Community Fund 2003, we were successful in this with a contribution of £250.00 to our funds.

Bev and Debbie attended a presentation on Monday 24th November 2003 to be presented a Certificate and a cheque by David Reedman the County Councillor.

We thank them for their assistance and for their support in our project. The original certificate is being displayed on our notice board at The Cross Keys, with a copy on the Parish Council board and also on our web site.

Maintenance of The Playspace

There were no new issues raised in the Inspection Book. We all accept that the equipment in place is in need of replacement but still serviceable at this time - just!

The issue of the new fence wire still needs attention by Matt Lawson.

Action: Debbie to contact Matt

Crimebeat Grant and visit by High Sheriff

No dates have so far been given to Debbie in order for the High Sheriff to come to the Cross Keys to present the youths that applied for the grant to visit with a large cheque.

It was suggested that as many as possible of the Committee could also be present when this was done.

Action: Zoë to contact Debbie with available dates as soon as possible.

Newsletter

An appeal for any volunteers that wished to write an article or be involved in the sub-committee to contact Debbie.

It was agreed that although dates could not be confirmed that our 'Events Calendar' for 2004 should include a Spring Time sponsored walk, Easter Bonnet Parade, Driveway Sale, some kind of Themed Party similar to the Beach Party and Bonfire and Fireworks event.

The target delivery date is beginning of February 2004.

Action: All & Debbie to arrange date with Hilary & Bev for Sub-Committee

Bonfire and Fireworks Evening

A really BIG THANK YOU to all that supported this event and for all of the work that was put in to this to make it such a success. Approximately £300.00 was raised.

Petra and Eliot at the Cross Keys for allowing the event to be held and all that they donated and helped to organise; Name the guy competition, decorating the pub, serving behind the bar and allowing us to take over again for the night.

Tree (James) for collecting and delivering wood for the bonfire.

Philip and Chris for making the guy.

Martin (pyrotechnic 1) and Browser (pyrotechnic 2) for making such an Excellent display of the fireworks and bonfire.

Disco Dave and Cool Carcass for the Disco and allowing the use of their microphone for the raffle.

Mick and Margaret for the Burger Van and loan of the urn.

Phillippa, Chris and Tammy for the mulled wine.

Jane and Fay for name how many sweets in jar and guess where the firework was.

All that donated fireworks, cash and raffle prizes.

Apologies if I have forgotten anyone by name, but Thank You All for your support, commitment and enthusiasm for The Playspace and these events.

Thank You Letters

It was agreed that Thank You letters to include an update on our situation and to wish them a Happy Christmas and New Year, to be sent to all those who have supported us with financial assistance

Action: Debbie

Winter Adult Social Event

It was agreed that we should have a 'Themed' adult Winter Social Event with the emphasis on Social and Adult! It was decided that we should have a 'Take Away Evening' where you bring your own plate, knife, fork, chopsticks etc (if required) to the pub where there will be a variety of menus and you order what you want to eat - (unfortunately you also have to pay for it!)

The Theme is still to be decided but there was a strong indication that some members (OK 1) of the Committee wanted to dress up!

It was also agreed that in order to try and make some money a raffle could be done, unless anyone else can think of anything better. This will be added to the next agenda so it can be discussed then.

Saturday 31st January 2003 - 7.00pm - Cross Keys Pub.

Action: All to Add to your Diary NOW!!!

Any Other Business

It was asked if we were organising a Christmas Party for the Children this year. It was agreed that we would not hold one this year as although some children did come last year and the event was enjoyed by all, it was felt that there were so many events going on this time of year that with limited time left to arrange a date and for the amount of time and organisation required it would be difficult to organise now.

Darren suggested some time ago a fundraising idea for 2004 of a 'Raffle of Promises' could be organised for around March. This will be added to the Agenda for January 2004.

Thank You to All

Debbie would like to say a Big Thank You to All of you that has been involved with Kempston Rural Playspace.

For The Playspace it has been a very successful year and every one should be proud of what has been achieved to date.

The profile of Kempston Rural Playspace has been raised in many areas throughout 2003. In Bedfordshire we have been supported because we hope to create a safe and stimulating environment for the Community and to include as many members of it that wish to be, making us unique certainly in Bedfordshire.

Funds have increased tremendously by your efforts and applications to sources and due to this we are in a position to install equipment - once just two questions resolve themselves - The ownership issue and if we require planning permission which I am totally confident will resolved, although I am not betting on when!!!

All of which goes to show that others do have confidence in our Plan Of Action and are prepared to support us financially and trust that The Playspace Committee to can carry it out.

Without your efforts none of this would have been possible and I would like to say Thank you All for your enthusiasm, support, time, energy and commitment to Kempston Rural Playspace and our Community throughout 2003 and look forward to seeing you all, having fun with the events in the New Year and seeing the fruits of our labour with a modern, up to date Playspace for all to enjoy.

Have a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th January 2004

8.00pm

Cross Keys Public House