

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 12th September 2000 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. N. Poulton (Chairman) Mr. D. Stock
Mr. I. Knight Mr. J. Meischke

1 Apologies for absence

None.

2 Matter arising from meeting held on 20th June 2000

• Summer Play Scheme 2000

Mr. Poulton said that the Summer Play Scheme had been reasonably successful. Don Chandler supervised the event and Mr. Meischke looked after the building.

However, two of the Community Hall windows were broken. EHDC has agreed responsibility for one and paid the £92.60 (which excludes VAT) for replacing the window. This is from their £100 deposit. A cheque for £7.40, being the remainder of the deposit, has now been sent to EHDC.

The Community Hall has paid £58.80 (excluding VAT) for the replacement of the other window. Because this amount is below our excess, no claim will be made against our insurers.

3 MPPA - Grant update

Mr. Poulton reported that the Doe Sport contract for the resurfacing of the MPPA has been signed and the deposit payment has been made. Doe Sport has been instructed to start work on 5th October 2000.

Mr. Poulton said that EHDC will meet on the 4th October to decide our grant application. As previously agreed, if the application is unsuccessful the Parish Council will pay the shortfall.

4 MPPA - replacement floodlight

Mr. Meischke reported that the replacement light had been fitted.

5 Floor - Sports Hall

Mr. Meischke said that he had lifted and re-stuck the damaged area of the flooring in the Main Hall with contact adhesive.

Mr. Meischke asked Mr. Stock to monitor the condition of the floor whilst using the facilities to play badminton. Mr. Stock agreed to do so.

6 Internal & External decoration of the Community Hall

Mr. Adams and his colleague Mr. Clarke have completed the external decoration of the Community Hall.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke have asked Mr. Adams to carry-out additional works, which include grouting the roof tiles to the woodwork and replacing some broken roof tiles.

Mr. Poulton has purchased 12 roof tiles at a cost of £17.40 plus VAT. The cost of replacing the tiles this way will be a fraction of the usual cost (which normally includes a call out charge).

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke have asked Mr. Adams to quote for internal decoration of the entrance hall and Pavilion and external toilets.

7 Bookings

Mr. Poulton reported that there has been an increase in Community Hall hirings. The Main Hall has got a three-month booking (for three sessions a week) and a cheque for £442.80 has been received today. Also, a number of children's parties have been booked.

8 Vandalism

Mr. Poulton reported that vandalism has been a major problem during the school summer holidays.

Two Community Hall windows were broken, one during Summer Play Scheme (as previously reported).

Mr. Meischke informed the Police immediately of the window breakages and also gave them the names of the culprits. However, due to staff holidays, nobody has been interviewed to date. Mr. Meischke asked for a member of the Police force to survey the area, which was not forthcoming. Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke outlined a sequence of events of the unacceptable way the Police have dealt with this matter. Mr. Poulton said that he had tonight met with PC Ivens (during a Police Surgery held at the Community Hall) who was most distressed at the sequence of events and the fact that Hertford Police had not made him aware of the situation at the time.

Recommendation:

The Parish Council write to the Chief Constable at Welwyn Garden City outlining the sequence of events and expressing the Parish Council's views on the subject, and copying it to Oliver Heald and PC Ivens.

Over the August bank holiday weekend the following incidents occurred.

- The bench seat, situated adjacent to the playground slide was broken beyond repair.

Recommendation:

That the Parish Council dismantles the remains of the seat and the seat is not replaced.

- The bench seat, situated adjacent to the baby-swing was almost lifted-out of the ground.
This has now been reinstated.
- The metal flood-guttering was broken and removed from the pavement near the rear entrance to the Community Hall.
This needs to be repaired.
- Part of the wooden frame was removed from a window in the Community Hall.
This has now been repaired by Mr. Adams and Mr. Clarke during the redecoration work.

On the evening of Monday 4th September, six kicker boards were ripped off at the MPPA and the metal liner to the litterbin was removed and crushed.

Mr. Poulton has replaced the kicker boards.

A new bin liner to be ordered from Glasdon UK.

Action: J. Allsop

Also the Sports & Social Club notice board was dismantled and the upright posts were found in a neighbouring garden. This has now been remade by the Sports & Social Club and painted.

9 Sports & Social Club – update

Mr. Knight said that there is no further update since his report at the Parish Council meeting in July. A meeting of the Sports & Social Club will be arranged in the next few weeks. It is hoped that all organisations will be represented at this meeting and any new organisations, including clubs such as carpet bowls and the anglers. This meeting will show if there are sufficient people willing to put in the effort for the Club to move forward again.

10 Sight Screens

Mr. Knight said that he had drafted a more appropriately worded letter to the Sports & Social Club re the responsibility of the Sight Screens. He reported that he had given it to Cled Fursland asking him to return a signed copy of the letter to signify agreement. However, to date, this has not been returned.

Mr. Knight to chase.

Action: I. Knight

11 Any other business

None.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.