

Minutes of the meeting of the Wotton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 12th March 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

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

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. D. Stock.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 12th December 2001

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2001 will be approved at the Parish Council meeting to be held on the 10th April, under Community Hall Trustees.

3 Matters arising

These were discussed at the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2002.

- **Use of MPPA**

At the Parish Council meeting in January the Community Hall Trustees recommended that if a private individual uses the MPPA facility during public open-times and pays for coaching, then it is their affair. Parish Councillors then discussed the recommendation at length and could not reach an agreement. Some Parish Councillors still felt very strongly that it was wrong to use a free facility for personal financial gain and that such users should pay for the MPPA facilities. Because Mr. Knight was not present at that meeting and Mr. Poulton could not be present at the February and March meetings, it was agreed to defer this item until April 2002.

Mr. Knight said that he would be contacting Digswell and Datchworth Tennis Clubs to find out their protocol on private coaching prior to the April Parish Council meeting.

Mr. Meischke said the Tennis Courts at Bishop's Stortford are a free enterprise and if users of the facility want to hire a private coach then it is up to them. The Parish Council does not make a charge to individuals hiring football coaches on the sportsfield.

It was agreed that when Mr. Knight presents his case on the issue at the Parish Council meeting in April he would have the full support of the Trustees.

It was suggested that all Parish Councillors who wish to charge hirers receiving tennis coaching come up with strategy for charging and be personally involved in policing the situation.

4 Locking of the Community Hall

Mr. Meischke said that there is a problem with the actual locking of the external door at the car-park-side of the Community Hall. The locking mechanism does not always engage, although, the key has been turned in the lock.

After discussion, it was agreed that the only permanent solution would be to fit a mortise lock to the door, which hirers would lock on exiting the building. However, for the time being it was agreed to monitor the situation and instruct all Parish Councillors to report all incidents of the external doors being left unlocked to the Clerk, who will keep a logbook.

5 External lighting

At the Parish Council meeting held on 6th March it was agreed that it would be useful to have an external light above the fire exit of the Main Hall, for reasons of security and safety.

There is an existing emergency light over the door, which is activated when the main power in the Community Hall fails.

Mr. Poulton said that he had instructed Keith Burgess to supply and fit the light. However, to date the work has not yet been carried-out. Mr. Poulton to chase. **Action: N. Poulton**

6 Any other business

- **Bike ramps, shelter and safety surface**

Mr. Poulton said that Wicksteed Leisure have acknowledged receipt of our order for three bike-ramps and one shelter, plus the installation of safety-grass. The Community Against Drugs Funding (which is a police fund, administered by EHDC) has agreed to grant the full cost of these items, which is £7,737.75 excluding VAT.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke met on-site with the Wicksteed installation contractors who have agreed to site the shelter adjacent to the new play equipment on the sportsfield, so that it is lit by the street light on Church Walk.

The Cricket Club is concerned about the location of the bike ramps, because they may mistake children jumping in the air for cricket balls. Mr. Poulton suggested that they use the site screen to obscure the bike ramps.

Mr. Poulton and Mr. Meischke to check the lines of the cricket table with the proposed siting of the bike ramps.

Action: N. Poulton/J. Meischke

- **Grass Cut**

The Cricket Club has requested that the sportsfield grass be cut as soon possible. This will be the first cut of the season. The Trustees expressed concern over grass cutting because the ground is still very wet.

The Clerk to contact Sedexho accordingly.

Action: J. Allsop

- **Boundary fence adjacent to Cricket Pitch**

Mr. Meischke said that he will arrange to meet with Martin Tipper (from Watton-at-Stone Cricket Club) re concerns over the effectiveness of boundary fence which is in place to stop balls from going onto School Lane and endangering passing pedestrians and vehicles.

Action: J. Meischke

- **Post and rail fence**

Mr. Poulton said that EHDC leaf grant might be able to assist with a grant towards the repair/replacement of the post and rail fence between the sportsfield and horses field.

- **The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.**

- **The date for the next Community Hall Trustees meeting is 29th May 2002.**