

Minutes of the meeting of the Watton-at-Stone Community Hall Board of Trustees held in the Community Hall on Wednesday 12th December 2001 at 7.30 p.m.

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

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 4th September 2001

Mr. Meischke proposed that the minutes be accepted and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Mr. Knight seconded the motion, Mr. Poulton and Mr. Stock were in favour.

3 Matters arising

- **Vandalism**

The vandalism problems at the Community Hall, MPPA and sportsfield area have been greatly reduced since the extra police coverage was introduced in the village on the 1st October.

- **Main Hall flooring**

Mr. Stock suggested that the condition of the Main Hall flooring was in keeping with its age. He suggested that if any further areas of flooring lift we should stick them down as before.

Mr. Knight said that if the tape on the floor lifts it could hurt users who are bare-footed, such as in the kick-boxing and aerobic classes.

This item to be placed on the agenda for six-month time.

Agenda: CH/June 2002

4 Wicksteed Leisure – Inspection report

Mr. Meischke said that Wicksteed Leisure has carried-out an inspection of the play area. A copy of their report is attached to these minutes.

Mr. Meischke said that he will speak to Wicksteed Leisure about their report and the work required on the play area.

Action: J. Meischke

5 New Playground equipment

As reported at the Parish Council meeting held on 5th December, the rubber safety-surface has not yet been laid under the new large piece of play equipment. Also, the making good of the surface where the two pieces of new spring play equipment has been installed (in place of the old slide) has not been done. Mrs. Davies had agreed to chase Wicksteed Leisure to find out when the safety-surface is to be installed. Mr. Meischke said he did not know if Mrs. Davies had spoken to Wicksteed Leisure, but the work had still not been carried-out. Also, they have not fenced-off the area. The Community Hall Trustees would not be liable for any injuries that occur on the new play equipment because they have not signed off the work as complete and therefore it remains the responsibility to the installers.

Mr. Meischke to ask Mrs. Davies if there is any progress on the matter.

Action: J. Meischke

6 Summer Play Scheme 2002

Mr. Poulton reported that EHDC had written requesting a financial contribution of between £100 and £150 towards the running costs of the summer play scheme 2002 (which will run for a four-week period).

After discussion by the Trustees, it was agreed to make the following recommendation to the Parish Council.

Recommendation:

EHDC to be informed that the free use of the Community Hall facilities represents the Parish Council's contribution towards the 2002 Summer Play Scheme. EHDC be asked to ensure that enough play scheme leaders are employed to run the scheme properly. A deposit of £100 will again be required from EHDC (to cover any possible damage to the building) before any booking is confirmed.

7 Bike Ramps

Mr. Poulton said that a meeting has been arranged for Friday 14th December 2001 between the police, some village children and EHDC. At this meeting the Police will evaluate the need for bike ramps for the youth of the village and then report back to the panel that authorise police grants for such projects.

Mr. Poulton said that he is looking at three items of mobile bike-ramp equipment. The Trustees agreed that these would need to be secured to the ground to prevent them from being moved. This could be done with a chain and padlock fixed to a ground anchor.

8 Light on MPPA

Mr. Meischke reported that one of the floodlighting bulbs has blown. Because the ground is very wet it would be impossible for Websters (the lighting contractors) to repair the light without damaging the football pitch.

This item to be placed on the February 2002 Parish Council agenda under Community Hall Trustees.

Agenda: 2/02

9 Contract for the hire of a hand dryer

Mr. Meischke said that he had studied the hand-dryer contract from the Warner Howard Group and, contrary to what we were told by County Supplies, the rental charge does not include a full service/breakdown and vandalism insurance.

Recommendation:

The Parish Council discusses this item to decide the best course of action.

10 Use of MPPA

At its meeting held on 5th September 2001, the Parish Council discussed the subject of the MPPA being used by individuals charging for coaching during public open-times. At that time they agreed that it was wrong to use a free facility for personal financial gain and that such users should pay for the MPPA facilities. It was also agreed that the Community Hall Trustees should discuss this item further at their next meeting.

After lengthy discussion the Trustees agreed the following recommendation to the Parish Council.

Recommendation:

If a private individual uses the MPPA facility during public open-times and pays for coaching, then it is their affair.

11 Any other business

• Request from Tennis Club for building of a shed type building on the sportsfield

Mr. Poulton read out the following letter (dated 9th December) from Ian Knight (Secretary, Sports & Social Club)

‘At the last meeting of the Sports & Social Club committee support was agreed for the Tennis Club to build a shed facility near the Tennis Courts. The shed would have a veranda to provide some cover for players when the weather is inclement and also hold tennis club equipment such as tables and chairs.

We would like to formally ask for the Parish Council agreement in principle for the facility.

We will provide sketches of what is proposed and generate a strategy for funding. We are well aware of the need for building that is environmentally friendly, to satisfy planning regulations.’

Recommendation:

The Parish Council give its agreement in principal and that the Tennis Club be given the address of the Diocesan Board so that it can obtain the necessary permission required for building on this area of leased land.

- The meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.**
- The date for the next Community Hall Trustees meeting is Tuesday 4th March 2002 at 7.30 p.m.**