

Godmanchester Community Association

Minutes of Meeting on Thursday 13th August 2009 at 8.00pm Comrades Club

Apologies

Stuart Bond, Helen Galer, Lynda Heseltine, Debbie Middleton (is available Nov 5th for first aid duties?) Kim Davies

Present

Gordon Allgood, Dave Brown, Roy White, Christine White, Nicola Rule, Alan Suter, Janice Suter, Stephen Spencer, Graham Webb, Alan Hooker, Bonnie Hooker, Keith Chapman, Huw Gaskill, Richard Halliday, Nina Collier, Shirley Brown

MAGPAS

Graham Webb from MAGPAS attended the meeting seeking volunteers to set up a first responder unit Godmanchester. He is himself a trained first responder and so far has a team of 6 but needs more to ensure 24 hour cover. He explained how a group of volunteers is being set up locally to be trained in first aid and the use of equipment with a view to be on site within minutes of a 999 call to stabilize the situation until the paramedic team arrive. They have some funding from Godmanchester Town council towards the scheme but need to raise further funds for the equipment and need to raise their profile locally to encourage more volunteers. Alan Hooker said that they could have an area on GALA day, and a couple of pages in next year's Bridge magazine also a headline on the website which could be done ASAP. They have so far received £1000 but need £2500 for the equipment pack which is used by the duty volunteer. Shirley Brown suggested we match the council grant and Nina Collier said that she felt we should donate as it's for the benefit of the community and that is what the Association is all about. Alan Hooker and Stephen Spencer said we will look into it as a committee at a later date. Dave Brown suggested we organize specific fundraising for specific goals/charities, Alan Hooker pointed out that this was how the Association used to work.

Correspondence

- A letter of Thanks from Stuart Bond for Community Association Gift of appreciation was read out.
- Stephen Spencer had received an e-mail from the Fozdyke Brass Band enquiring as to whether we have decided on a date for next year's last night of the proms. **Alan Suter** will check the availability of the Comrades Club and get back to Stephen.

GALA WEEK - DAY AND CARNIVAL PROCESSION 2009 – The Results

General consensus was that it all went well!

PARADE

- Alan Suter reported that there had been no problems with the parade itself and that the stopping of traffic had gone very well
- Shirley Brown felt that the toilet stop had been an absolute nightmare which was agreed by all of those that had taken part in the procession. Alan Hooker queried the need for a toilet stop and Bonnie Hooker pointed out that they had never had one before and survived. The committee felt that in future everyone participating in the parade should ensure that they 'went' before the parade set off rather than stopping the entire procession half way round.
- Alan Suter said that with hind sight he felt they could have been slightly better organised if they had a running order to work to but the team had not felt the need for this at the time. Huw felt that a running order would have been helpful as better planning would have made off-loading the children from the floats on the causeway easier. He said it had been tricky trying to ensure everyone was safely off and stop the traffic at the same time.
- Alan Suter felt that the procession could have done with more participants and thinks we need to start drumming up in Jan /Feb. He raised the question of how do we get more groups Involved? Alan Hooker suggested putting it on the website, and trying to get the pub's to do floats as they did in the past.

GALA DAY

- Alan Hooker said that he had had a problem collecting the rents from some stall holders because he was busy until 5 by which time lots of the small stalls had gone. He suggested that maybe Keith could collect from the small stalls at about 4pm in future or try to collect the rents on arrival.
- Roy White felt that Stephen from the White Hart hadn't seemed very keen and wondered if he would be interested in doing the bar again. Dave Brown said that he got the impression that it went well and that they would be interested in doing it again, but he would get in touch and enquire. Stephen Spencer said that he had formally thanked the White Hart and everyone felt that the bar had looked very professional.

BUNTING

- Stephen Spencer said thank you to **Keith Chapman, Richard Halliday, Huw Gaskill and Alan Hooker** for putting up the bunting, and Keith and Alan for taking it down but said there had been an issue with the CCTV operators who had asked if the bunting could be put a bit higher next year at the camera as flags had interfered with the view of Post Street.
- Alan Hooker asked for, and received, approval to purchase 11 new lengths of bunting for next year at an estimated cost of £135 (to be purchased from next year's budget).

BOWLS

- It was felt that the bowls went very well and a large thank you to **Jack Tyler** and the Bowls club for an excellent day.

PETANQUE

- It was felt that the Petanque seemed better organised than in previous years (possibly due to a result being achieved before 2am!) and that the shorter games were a very good move. Everyone who had taken part said it was a fabulous evening and gave a large thank you to **Brenda and Bill Hennessey** and to **David and Mary Stokes**.

GALA PRINCESS

- The Gala Princess competition had no entrants, other than Elise Kimpton who on judging day was at home ill in bed, she won by default!
- Bonnie Hooker suggested lowering the starting age as she could have rustled up several entrants this year but they were all too young
- Alan Suter said that he would be more organised for next year and would lower the youngest age to 6

WEBSITE

- There had been concerns that Photographs from the Carnival, Gala Day and Picnic in the Park shouldn't be used on the website without permission from those in the frame. It was felt that if names were not published there should not be too much of a problem. Alan Hooker said he had received the OK from those he had managed to talk to and people were aware of having their photo taken at the time and could have withdrawn if not happy. Next year we should have a consent form available, **Shirley** said the school had a template for this which the committee could look at.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

- Shirley Brown said that the PA didn't carry very well and didn't have a very good quality of sound
- Alan Hooker said that sometimes the home recorded discs he was given to use had been recorded at a less than useful volume. Another issue was the speakers, two options were to get more speakers, or just get some new different speakers. **AH** said he would talk to the supplier and see what the options are
- **Nicola Rule** said that there was a chap who rents a PA out, which was used at the Huntingdon riverside Gala, she will find out how much he is.
- **Gordon Allgood** said he would have a look at the PA on Nov 5th and give his professional opinion on the matter!

FINANCIAL

- Alan Hooker gave his financial report on Gala Day and the weekend.

Stephen Spencer gave congratulations on an excellent Gala day and Gala week to everyone involved

PICNIC IN THE PARK 2009

The general overview was that it had been a brilliant success, everyone had a fabulous day, we had been very lucky with the weather and there was no trouble!

DUCK RACE

- Nina Collier suggested getting some more ducks as they sold out quite quickly and some have swum off over the years never to be seen again. **Nina** will look into the costs of getting an extra 200 ducks (rough guestimate £160)
- **Huw Gaskill** said he may be able to get some duck for free and will look into the possibility.

PIP

- Stephen Spencer said well done to **Alan Suter** and the team who just keep getting stronger
- It was felt that the bridge had been a problem, but should not be an issue next year as it should have been replaced by then!
- Slight issue with people jumping in the river

TOILETS

- It was felt that the toilets were a problem as people were spending ages queuing to use the loo
- Suggestions to improve this were getting urinals for men and putting a bank of toilets at the other side of the field (would be behind stalls on Gala Day)
- Gordon Allgood suggested we ask the toilet company of the ratio of toilets to people they would recommend and also getting quotes in from other companies

RECYCLING

- Gordon Allgood said that the recycling at PIP was rubbish!!
- It was noted that people don't like to move or separate their rubbish, and for people to use the recycling bins they needed to be in the middle of field.
- Alan Hooker commented that the rubbish issue is far better than it used to be and people are making far more effort in recent years to gather their rubbish rather than leaving it for others, the Bloomers had gone to do a final tidy prior to judging the next day and could not find anything to clear up!
- It was felt that we should give up trying to get people to recycle at PIP and concentrate on getting people to bag up their rubbish. Hugh Gaskill pointed out that the new recycling centre would take care of re cycling grey bin waste which is effectively what we generate.
- Gordon Allgood suggested we hand out bin bags to people as they enter the field

FINANCIAL

- Alan Hooker gave his financial report on Picnic in the Park

Stephen Spencer gave congratulations for an excellent Picnic in the Park to everyone involved

Bonfire night – November 5th 2009

- Alan Hooker asked for a £4000 firework budget this year which was approved
- Bonnie Hooker is to get the paperwork (tickets, fliers etc) to Shirley before the October half term
- Alan Hooker said he had been thinking of tweaking the ticket prices to encourage pre-purchase of tickets and ease congestion and the cash held on the front gate. To be discussed further.

- Kimbolton have offered free training update as compensation for the large number of last year's fireworks which didn't go off. Gordon said he would like to attend, Alan asked if this meant he was offering to join the pyrotechnic team! (no comment)

Bridge 2010

Alan Hooker suggested having a pre-meeting rather than leaving it all until the last minute, he suggested a couple of months earlier than usual = later this year.

New Website and Email addresses – Progress report

Alan predicted that it should all be up and running by the next meeting. Once it is all fully functioning he will advertise the website in the council newsletter and try and get people to register their e-mail addresses with the website to receive community information updates.

Barn Dance Sat. 12th June 2010

Alan Hooker has talked Ann Looker into throwing a barn dance like we used to organized and attended by the wider COMMASS membership and their friends who have been putting the effort into the Community Associations events and activities, ! There may be an issue with numbers and a band needs to be found. **AH** to approach Ock'N'Dough if they are still about.

AOB

STORAGE CONTAINER

- Roy White said that the storage container had gone up by 40% (£2100 + VAT)
- Stephen Spencer said he would look into grants
- Someone suggested that we contact Luminous and rent a garage, Nicola Rule said she felt that would not be secure enough. It was felt that the storage container was definitely the way forward
- Need sleepers to site it on, **Dave Brown** is to ask Jewson's for their best price
- **Roy White** is to get a written quote
- **Nicola Rule** and **Huw Gaskill** have also said they will get quotes. It should be noted it has previously been agreed by the committee to only consider a new container given the erosion and damp issues.
- **All written quotes to be forwarded on to Alan Hooker who has the authority to order whichever one he feels is best and the required amount of sleepers.**

PIP 2010

- Dave Brown said that it had been suggested that we try and get the fire service to come to Picnic in the park and let the children play on the engine. Possibly on the bridge side of the river. It was decided to discuss this further at a future meeting
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GALA DAY 2010

- ALAN Hooker confirmed 'the mighty Smith' a strongman act had been booked at a cost of £ 550 for next year's arena.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

- Stephen Spencer suggested that we produce Community Association Christmas cards to sell.
- Nicola Rule pointed out that the chemist does 'Godmanchester stationary' and also that there is to be a radio competition for the schools to design a Huntingdon Christmas card.
- Factors to be considered are what image to use? Where would we sell them?
- Nina Collier pointed out that there is not much time to do anything for this year.
- It was decided to consider it as something for next year, it could then be published in the Bridge magazine to let people know about it.
- Stephen Spencer said he would get prices for A6 cards.

RISK ASSESSMENT

- Richard Halliday asked if there was anything in place for a risk assessment on getting people onto the field for any function taking place on the rec.
- In its absence he offered to do one.

NEXT MEETING – THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2009 8.00 PM
VENUE – COMRADES CLUB GODMANCHESTER