

Godmanchester Community Association

Minutes of meeting held at the Comrades Club on 14th January 2010

PRESENT

Hugh Gaskill, Stephen Spencer (chair), Peter Simpson, Richard Harrison, Stuart Bond, Alan Hooker, Nicola Rule, Shirley Brown, Nina Collier, Gordon Allgood

APOLOGIES

David Brown, Keith Chapman, Bonnie Hooker, Helen Galer, Charlotte Oldwood, Lynda Heseltine, Brenda Hennessy

NEW MEMBER

Stephen Spencer introduced Peter Simpson to the committee. Stephen and Peter had met at slimmers anonymous and found an immediate bond. I won't go into the next 10 minutes of discussion re their relationship but suffice it to say, it set the tone for a light hearted meeting. Peter has been in GMC for 3 years and feels he would like to become an active member of our band of desperados. He has submitted his work e-mail address at the Cambridgeshire Constabulary for use by the association. Welcome aboard Peter.

PREVIOUS MINUTES:

December Meeting 10-12-2009

No minutes had been produced as this had been a very successful social gathering which included partners. The committee had taken over the rear bar at the Comrades club who had kindly supplied plates and cutlery to help the evening along. A whip round had been held to cover the cost of drinks and a sumptuous takeaway buffet from the Cinta Chinese takeaway restaurant who succumbed to Stephen's relentless demands for significant discounts! It was agreed a terrific evening had been had by all and the format was well worth repeating for future December meetings. It was in fact suggested as the format for all our meetings but this was felt a little too ambitious.

Matters Arising – AGM

There had been an element of work to the December meeting, namely setting of the date for the AGM. This had been agreed to be held at the Comrades Club due to the popularity of the QE School. Date set as 25-02-10, 7.30 start. A discussion ensued on the detail, it was agreed that:

Cheese and Nibbles: - be offered as usual at the start

Wine: - We ask the Comrades Club **(AS)** to supply the wine for us (at a preferential rate) and we dispense it before and during the meeting free of charge. At the end of the evening the pay bar could be used.

Manpower: - Roy and Christine White had in the past looked after the catering side of the evening. It was agreed they be approached to see if they would be available to kindly look after this **(RW)**.

We will need access at 7.15 to set out the hall – to be arranged with Alan Suter **(AS)**,

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Advertising: - Alan Hooker to supply Shirley Brown with the usual flier for distribution through the GMC schools. Artwork needed by 10-02-10 for distribution Mon 22-02-10 (there is a school break between these dates) **(AH, SB)**

E-mail:- Alan Hooker to e-mail a notice to all people on the various e-mail lists he holds for community use, including the town council. **(AH)**

Sign: - It was agreed a new 8 x 4 sign be produced for the event as the current one named the QE School as the venue and there would be a cost anyway to have it changed. A budget of around £100 was agreed which would give us a sign for both most likely venues in the future. **(AH)**

Minutes: - Stuart Bond will look into producing a set of minutes to cover the 2009 AGM **(St.B)** Alan Hooker will approach Bonnie to be available to take those for 2010. **(AH)**

Officers: - Before the AGM we need to know if all the officers are available for a further term.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS EMAIL TO CONFIRM YOUR CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT

Confirmation needed from:

Alan Hooker – Treasurer – **Confirmed**

Gordon Allgood – Vice chair

Bonnie Hooker – secretary - **confirmed**

Mike Westcott-Rudd – Company Secretary

Alan Hooker & Roy White – Directors

Nicola Rule, Stuart Bond, **Alan Hooker**, Mike Westcott-Rudd & Roy White – Trustees

Ongoing: - **More** detailed arrangements for the evening can be agreed at the normal Feb meeting.

November Meeting 12-11-2009

Approve Minutes:-These were approved as an accurate record

Matters arising November minutes

Storage Container

Purchase: - This had now been bought from Stamford Storage at a cost of £2190.75 inc. VAT @15%. This included delivery which will happen when the weather lifts. The 4 sleepers are still to be purchased and will need to be laid and levelled prior to delivery **(AH, SS)**

Racking: - Alan Hooker pointed out that the container couldn't be used immediately without shelving and racking being installed. A budget of £170 for a professional chippy (AH to assist) and £500 for materials was agreed. Any additional requirements would be circulated to the committee by e-mail **(AH)**,

Insulation: - Stuart Bond raised the issue of corrosion and the need for insulating against condensation. Alan Hooker warned this could double the material and labour costs for the job, he would look into an accurate costing. It was agreed that as our equipment is frequently put away soaking wet and condensation could be a problem. Gordon Allgood suggested vents at each end could help reduce the problem, to be actioned. Alan Hooker raised concerns at the PA system being stored in a damp environment; Stuart Bond suggested a storage chest within the container, to be costed. **(AH)**

November 5th

To be reviewed later in the year

Gala Week

Stuart Bond commented that it was worthy of note that the Huntingdon Heritage celebrations were the 26-28th June and whether they would conflict with any Gala week events. It was agreed to soldier on regardless

CORRESPONDENCE

800 Committee

An e-mail had been received from Charles Looker querying the status of the 800 committee within the context of a Community Association subcommittee and the possible need for this subcommittee to contain 2 GMCCA directors. Alan Hooker reported that he had passed this on to Mike Westcott-Rudd for investigation. The other trustees present felt there was not a constitutional need for 2 directors to be present on every committee. The bloomers and Picnic in the park committees were two good examples. We await MWR's adjudication. **(MWR)**

ADDITIONAL DIRECTORS

Given the previous discussion it was felt that an additional 2 directors would be prudent as currently Alan Hooker and Roy White represented the minimum required for our purposes. It was agreed that **Stephen Spencer and Stuart Bond** be added as company directors. **(MWR)**

TRUSTEES

Whilst updating, it was felt that our chairperson should also be a trustee. **Stephen Spencer** was agreed to act as an additional trustee (let's hope the next committee votes for him!) **(MWR)**

BRIDGE MAGAZINE

The date of the next bridge magazine meeting was set as Thursday 21-01-10, at 8pm at the Comrades Club. Alan Hooker is to issue an e-mail invitation to the committee. **(AH)**

PICNIC IN THE PARK

The PIP committee had not had a formal meeting yet although e-mails had been flying around. First meeting agreed as Tuesday 19-01-10 at 8pm at the Comrades Club. All welcome **(AS)**

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Pricing: - Hall booked for 8th May 2010, band booked for £650. A discussion ensued covering pricing and it was agreed to keep prices and format as last year, namely £11 to include hat and whistle.

Concession for children to be confirmed.

Advertising: - Stephen Spencer will e-mail his list of ticket recipients from last year giving them first refusal with an aim to selling out this year, posters and flyers will be produced as previously by Stephen Spencer.

The hall has a capacity of 120 so shouldn't be difficult given the positive reaction to the last which generated a project of £400. **(SS)**

Profits: - **50%** of any profit to go to the MAGPAS 1st responder unit

GALA WEEK 2010. JUNE 26TH – JULY 4TH

Bowls: - Jack Tyler to be approached to organise (SS)

Fun Run: - Paul Dyer at the exhibition to be contacted to confirm the arrangements (SS/St.B)

Petangue: - Brenda Hennessey, Maggie Middlemiss, Paul Dyer at the exhibition to be contacted to confirm willingness to organise again. (SS)

Comrades events: - Alan Suter to confirm activities ASAP to enable other events to be dovetailed i.e. Quiz?

White Hart: - Steven Cooper to be contacted to find out what he has planned to try to link in with bridge gala programme – maybe beer festival? (AH)

Pubs: - Black Bull, Royal Oak, White Hart, Exhibition to be sent request for general involvement in Gala Week and confirm what is already planned. (AH)

Bar on rec: - Steven Cooper of the White Hart to be contacted to confirm his willingness to repeat his last year's excellent efforts (AH)

Fishing Competition – New event: - Gordon Allgood had originally proposed this and it was generally felt that a revival was well overdue. A date was set for 26th June, venue – the river around the recreation ground (no rod licence needed for under 16 residents) A discussion regarding practicalities ensued, more like a trip down memory lane!! Details to be worked on for the next meeting. (GA)

Historic Walk – New event: - Nina announced the forthcoming historic walkabout in GMC, organised by the friends of the QE School, is almost fully subscribed. This led to a discussion on the practicalities of running one for Gala week. It was also suggested continuing it to one a week for the rest of July. Nina felt that Ken Sneath (the historian giving the talk on the walk) would maybe find it a bit much as he was getting on a bit and his legs were not what they used to be! Alan Hooker offered to discuss the matter with Ken on their weekend trip to football. (AH)

Update: - Ken was touched at Nina's concerns and is happy to undertake a guided tour as a Community Association activity during Gala week, what evening? He needed confirmation that the GMCCA public liability would cover it? Start at the church and finish at a pub for a buffet? Which pub? Normally 30 people as a maximum. Didn't fancy an ongoing weekly event but would be happy to continue with them annually (As long as his legs and memory hold out) with maybe a bigger one to coincide with his book on the History of Godmanchester being published in 2011.

Other New events: - A brainstorming session followed with great hilarity. Many ideas came up, many fell by the wayside, best dad, best pet, prettiest dog, most cuddly person (these last 2 could end up as 1). And many others were discussed culminating with Shirley Brown declaring she needed to go home to bed! I don't know if this was past her bedtime or she had got too excited!! Ongoing

2012/800 COMMITTEE

This had been discussed during the 'correspondence' discussion.

Next Meeting: – 28-01-10 at the QE School, 7.30pm start

Minutes: - It was agreed that the easiest way to keep the committee abreast of the activities and issues arising from this committee would be to include all GMCCA committee members in the circulation list of its minutes

AOB

Additional Director: - This had been covered in 'correspondence'

New Flo-jo's: - Properly overprinted flo-jo's were suggested as a means of raising our profile when we are involved in activities – to be costed. (AH)

Official Business Card: - Stuart Bond commented at the missed recruiting opportunities when we hold events. Often members of the public show interest in what, why, who, where, when regarding the Community Association. A verbal response was felt a missed opportunity, a card however to be presented enabling the person to refer back to it was felt a positive move. Alan Hooker chirped in declaring his frustration when out and about taking photos for the community website and seeing many obviously competent photographers out creating masterpieces. It would be good to have a card to present inviting them to contribute material to the website. Especially at events where he is busy, such as Gala weekend and the carol service. Also when visiting country fairs, events, concerts etc – it would be useful to present a GMCCA invitation to stalls etc. The business card concept was accepted for introduction and action.

Artwork: - Good quality gloss card of a decent size, double sided. Side 1 = title, e-mail addresses, website address, space for 'presented by'. We could each put our name in the box so as to remind people of who they spoke to. Side 2 = description of what we do, when & where we meet.

Production: - Stephen Spencer to provide suggestions and prices at next meeting. **(SS)**

COMRADES MEMBERSHIP

The Comrades Club has become the Community Associations adopted home. With the forthcoming introduction of a swipe card security system to keep out non-members it was suggested that it would make sense if all GMCCA committee members were also Comrades Members to enable easy access. A discussion followed and it was felt that given the support that GMCCA gets from Alan Suter and the Comrades Club, our support for them should go without question. Many of our committee were already members and at £12 it would not cause hardship to anybody. Also, in view of the very reasonable pricing on drink prices the £12 would soon be recouped in a couple of rounds on a night out.

Obligation: - There was a feeling within the meeting that membership of the Comrades Club should not be obligatory or a pre-cursor to getting on the Community Association committee. The Comrades were and are happy for non-members to come in as guests of members which is how it has been dealt with in the past. The fact that non-members can't buy drinks may make being a guest a very attractive proposition to some!

www.godmanchestercommunityassociation.org

Maintenance: - Alan Hooker has day to day access to the site enabling news items to be uploaded immediately. The Bridge magazine uploading will remain the control of Rich Milns due to its complexity.

Directories: - Stuart Bond queried whether all the council directories etc had been changed to include the new web address for the Community Association website (currently directed towards GMC.net) Alan confirmed that they had not and Stuart agreed to handle directory optimisation given his experience with .net. **(St.B)**

The meeting was drawn to a close.

**NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2010,
8PM AT THE COMRADES CLUB ALL WELCOME**