

Godmanchester Community Association

Minutes of meeting held on 14th May 2009

Present

Stephen Spencer, Gordon Allgood, Charlotte Oldwood, Ray White, Dave Brown, Nina Collier, Keith Chapman, Alan Hooker, Alan Suter, High Gaskill, Stuart Bond, Richard Harrison, Bonnie Hooker, Community Support Officer Shiralee Freeman

Apologies

Shirley Brown, Linda Heseltine, Jean Morgan

The meeting commenced with items on the agenda which concerned the Police as Shiralee Freeman needed to leave early.

Policing

Shiralee Freeman said that she felt there would be a police presence this year, both with the procession and on the recreation ground throughout both days. She pointed out that last year there were no problems at all on gala day, and on the Sunday at PIP it was just a small group of people that caused trouble at the end of the day and that generally the public seemed pleased to have a police presence there. Stephen Spencer said that he felt that the use of lights and sirens from the officers who came to assist with the trouble drew a larger crowd to the area and perhaps was not the best idea. Alan Suter pointed out that the police car had driven between the stage and the lighting deck running over all the cables and requested that Shiralee mention to her colleagues that no vehicles are allowed in this area for future reference.

- Stephen Spencer requested that Shiralee organise the CCTV camera for Gala day and PIP
- **Stephen Spencer** will be a point of contact on the recreation ground for the police.

Carnival

- Charlotte Oldwood reported that after her research into whether the procession could go ahead after last year's problems, there was no-one official to say a definitive YES or NO as to whether it could go ahead. The decision is down to the committee to make and take responsibility for. Charlotte said YES, the procession will go ahead
- **Charlotte Oldwood** said she would contact the new sector inspector, Ian Ford, to request that police and Community Support can have a presence in the procession.
- Stuart Bond said he had tried to contact DHL regarding trucks for the procession but they were all too big, Charlotte pointed out that that had been a problem last year.
- Charlotte pointed out that if we organise trucks for everyone then that makes something else we are liable for. She has told the individual groups that if they want a truck they need to source them themselves.
- The highways agency wants the committee to do a risk assessment. **Alan Suter** is to do a risk assessment and pass it on to Charlotte.
- Police cones are required on the causeway and the Crowhill junction, **Shiralee Freeman** said she would organise this.
- **Charlotte** is to provide each group participating in the procession with a briefing document, and to let the groups know that they need to have enough adult supervisors.
- **Charlotte** is to look in her loft for the procession trophies; if they are not there she will contact the last winning groups to request them back.
- **Stephen Spencer** is to contact the Town Clerk to invite the mayor to join the gala princesses in judging the floats at Judiths field 12.30.
- **Hugh Gaskill** Said that he and Barry McGregor would once again be in the road on the causeway to ensure that the children do not get off the floats into the road but unload on the pavement side
- Alan Suter Suggested we look into getting road signs to pre warn people that there will be a procession taking place. **Charlotte** said she would look into it (RAC/AA website). Nina said it seemed like a lot of work and suggested that it was making things too complicated!!
- Groups enroled for the procession are Clarence house, Kids Club, Blue vision twirlers, scouts, guiding, jigsaw nursery.

- **Volunteers are required to escort the procession**

Gala Day

- Arena events for gala day are maypole dancing, Ridgeside lurchers display(on twice), Blue vision twirlers display, Hugh and Barry children games.
- Chinese bridge is semi-repaired but still weak. It was said that Colin Hyams would get HDC to erect some weak bridge signs. Needs to be a way of limiting numbers on the bridge. Stuart Bond suggested that we have stewards on either end letting people cross in a steady flow as in previous years. Alan Hooker suggested that barriers were put up on the bridge to limit the numbers able to cross at one time.
- Shiralee Freeman asked about the security arrangements for the weekend. Command security who have done it for the last 2 years will be back this year on the recreation ground from 8pm – 8am Friday and Saturday night, 12-6pm on Sunday at the mill sluice car park to stop vehicles going onto the rec, and from 8pm 6am on Sunday night.
- Overnight security for the bar is down to the White Hart. **Dave Brown** to talk to the White Hart to find out if they will be returning stock to the pub overnight.

Gala Week Events (2010)

- It was suggested that the cricket club do a kwick cricket tournament in gala week, if they want to get involved. This raised a point from Alan Hooker that he spent a day doing the PA for the cricket club funday on the basis that they were an affiliated group, and it seems they have not affiliated this year
- A darts tournament was suggested, for novices. Gordon suggested the Comrades club run it as they have experience in them. The idea will be suggested to Alan Suter at a later date.
- Gordon Allgood said he was looking into the possibility of resurrecting the old fishing competition.

Gala Day events (2010)

- Stephen Spencer suggested a beach party theme, bringing in sand to create a beach and having Punch & Judy etc. The idea was popular but the logistics of importing and exporting the sand had to be considered. It was decided to re-visit the idea at the next meeting
- It was decided that we wanted to book 'The mighty Smith' as the main arena event as we missed out this year. **Charlotte** is to get in contact and book him for next year.

Picnic in the park

- **Duck race** – The environment agency have given permission to open the sluice gates as usual. **Nina** will be collecting the ducks next week
- Alan Hooker said that everything was booked and organised for picnic in the park. Acts are: School choir, Tallis Morris, HUM's big band, EJS, 9 Fold Punch, Abba Unique, The Commitments.

Bridge magazine

- The magazine is in the final stages (At the time of typing it has just been sent to the printers!)
- Nina has organised a couple of extra volunteers for distribution
- It was agreed that any spare copies of the magazine go up to wood green.
- Dave Brown was congratulated on 128% advert sales
- Nina said she needed the magazines by 30th May

Godmanchester in Bloom Update

- Best front garden judging on 26th June
- Anglia in bloom judging 8th July
- As previously discussed it was confirmed that Godmanchester in Bloom had adopted it's own constitution and was setting up a bank account to enable it to function independently of GMCCA . This would allow it to benefit from grants currently unavailable to it as a sub committee of a charity, namely us.

- Godmanchester in bloom has requested funding from GMCCA of £1000 - £1200 for a brick planter with our name on, they have received a grant from the hunts post for one
- A plan of the proposed design was shown and Alan Hooker voiced his concern over the lack of foundations for the structure in particular regarding water drainage, what would happen if the council ever wanted to change the paving slabs if they were the planter base. He felt that it seemed like a temporary structure and while in favour in principle, did we want to spend a thousand pounds if it might be gone in a few years!
- Dave Brown informed the meeting that John Thackary had assured him that The Highways agency had no objections as long as they did not obstruct services and that the planters did not require foundations
- Stuart Bond said that if GMC in bloom was no longer a part of the association all we should be interested in was whether or not we fund the planter.
- It was decided to defer making a decision because the committee felt that they did not have enough information, and were concerned about longevity. Stephen Spencer said he would ask John Thackary for more specific details, technical information and a costing breakdown.

Last Night of the Proms

- Stephen Spencer was congratulated on a very successful evening.
- Stephen Spencer felt that the last night of the proms should be an annual event, which was agreed. The band have been booked for 24th April next year
- Roy White suggested that there be more singing along next year
- Stephen Spencer had agreed to donate half the profit from the evening to GMC in Bloom, he has rounded that up to make a donation of £200

2012 celebrations

Suggestions of ideas for the 2012 celebrations were:

- Living history – context, when?
- Running commentary – significant dates in GMC history

- Raft racing/dragon boats
- Hog roast
- More effort for Bridge magazine, maybe A4 full glossy – history of GMCCA
- Commemorative pencils for children

Everyone have a think of ideas.

- **Stuart Bond** asked if the 'GMC 800' committee wanted space on the Godmanchester website or if they wanted a sub-domain? Charles Looker to be approached

Harry Foren Commemorative plaque

- **Alan Hooker** suggested that if we did go ahead and sponsor one of GMC in blooms planters that we get a plaque and dedicate it to Harry Foren
- The Town council had been planning on putting plaques in the QE school to commemorate people who have played an important role in the community. It was suggested that we find out the nature of the plaques and what details/information could go on there as Hugh pointed out that he didn't actually know who Harry Foren was.
- It was suggested we get in touch with HDC and enquire how to go about getting a street named after him.

E-mail addresses – progress report

- **Stuart** is to set up the new e-mail addresses with **Alan H**
- **Stuart** is to link the GMCCA website to his Godmanchester website once completed

Storage facility

It was decided to buy a brand new storage container rather than get a second hand or reconditioned one. Practicalities of location to be investigated by **Alan H**

Roy White's Organisational/Volunteer chart

The chart was handed out and it was felt that we should be using it though it needs to be accurate so we should adopt, refine and update. It was felt that Roy White should be the point of contact to run the list.

Stuart suggested the list be set up as a shared document on the internet.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the friends of St Mary the Virgin requesting a member of GMCCA become a member and trustee of the friends of St Mary the Virgin. Dave Brown said he would like to know a bit more about it. **Stephen** is to invite the author of the letter to the next meeting

AOB

- Bunting is to go up on Sunday 14th June
- Compost giveaway at Park Lane Nursery on 30th May 10-4, 1st June 10-4, 3rd June 10-12.

NEXT MEETING ON THURSDAY 11th JUNE 2009 at 8pm at the COMRADES CLUB

Apologies in advance from Nina Collier and Gordon Allgood