

GODMANCHESTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting held at the Comrades Club on Thursday November 12th 2009

Apologies

Stuart Bond, Bonnie Hooker, James Taylor, Kim Davies, Linda Heseltine, Charlotte Oldwood, Shirley Brown, Alan Suter

Present

Stephen Spencer (chair), Helen Galer, David Brown, Richard Harrison, Nina Collier, Roy White, Christine White, Nicola Rule, Alan Hooker (minutes in Bonnie's absence)



Standing L-R, Roy White, Lorna Hayes, Graham Webb, Stephen Spencer, David Brown, Richard Harrison.

Seated L-R, Christine White, Nicola Rule, Nina Collier, Helen Galer.

Alan Hooker behind the camera!

MAGPAS - £500 presentation

Graham Webb and Lorna Hayes were introduced as first responders representing the MAGPAS 1st responder unit. They had with them a first response kit, which is the first responder's action pack and proceeded to give a thorough run through of its contents and their uses. This kit is the main expense of the unit and the item the Community Association donation will go towards.

Stephen Spencer gave a brief thank you for the organisations efforts and assured the pair we would be looking to donate further from our fund raising activities as and when. He also confirmed the invitation for the group to have a free presence on Gala Day to raise their profile and funds. It was noted that they could not attend as first aid cover on the day due to their insurance cover.

Minutes from the meeting on 8th October 2009

These were agreed as a true record of the meeting and the suspected omission of sleeper prices for the storage container raised by David Brown was found to be an item from the previous September meeting. Everyone nodded sympathetically when he explained the pitfalls of age progression!

The minutes were proposed by Richard Harrison, seconded by Roy White and approved on a show of hands.

Matters Arising:

Storage Container

Alan Hooker was asked as to progress on this front. He explained that with the firework pre-payment draining the current account and the National Savings account freezing up he felt it inappropriate to take this expenditure any further until funds were available. Now the Nov 5th activities were behind us he could revisit this project. Stephen Spencer asked if he could come along to any viewing. Date to be agreed.

National Savings Account

Alan Hooker explained how the issue of new signatories for the deposit account had been resolved by an e-mail conference directed at all those present at the last meeting to allow their decision to be minuted and shown on the minutes of that meeting as "supplementary e-mail discussion". He confirmed the agreed new signatories on this account would be any two from Alan Hooker, Stephen Spencer, Shirley Brown or Nina Collier.

Correspondence

Alan Hooker had received a further disc of photos from a local photographer, Tef Tewfik, for use as deemed fit in the Scrapbook of the Community Association website.

FIREWORKS, Nov 5th

Stephen Spencer thanked everybody involved for an exceptionally successful evening and commented favourably on the photo set (Pictures of the finale by Bonnie) on display in the scrapbook section of the Community Association website. He questioned whether it would be possible to include a video clip of next years. Alan said he would look into it.

Nicola commented on the excellent quality of risk assessment produced by Richard Harrison. Alan reported that the event had currently made a profit of £1100 with a further £120 being available if the 6 boxes of rocket packaging were returned to Kimbolton Fireworks.

Thanks should go to those selling pre-event tickets, namely St Anne's school £387, GMC Community Primary school £633 and Bellman's bakery £373. Alan reported that Crazy Glazy had asked if they could be included as a vendor next year.

A discussion followed on the various aspects of the evening which could be improved.

It was felt that the general entrance area was as efficient as it could get with maybe a couple more bodies. The gates lights had been omitted this year as the car park lights were quite bright. Roy asked for additional spot lighting as in previous years which will be provided for next year.

The age policy, or lack of it, had been an issue and the committee agreed the official age bands would be 0-3 years free, 4-15 years = child, 16 + = adult.

The need to get more people buying pre-event tickets was identified by the committee to reduce queues at the gate. The re-organisation of the queues had been raised for a topic of discussion to try and avoid the need to walk past the main queue when getting to the front with tickets. It was felt that separating the ticket collection at the entrance was as much as could be realistically done to address this, apart from changing the amount of people paying on the gate drastically. It was suggested the gate prices be reviewed to avoid the masses of change needed to accommodate the current rates. By increasing the incentive to buy pre-event it would also assist in reducing queues and assist getting people onto site quickly.

The committee agreed that next year the pre-event ticket price should remain at £3-50 for adults and £1-50 for children which it had been for many years now. The 'on-the-night' gate price for adults should become £5, the child's price should remain at £2.50. These would be in line with other local displays. These prices are to be announced in the Bridge Magazine, posters and leaflets.

Stephen commented on the work he had put in lowering the bushes at the rocket site and requested the council clear it next year. Roy White offered his petrol strimmer for loan as an alternative which might be the more reliable route.

Stephen also commented on the size of the clean up team the morning after – Stephen, Alan and Nina. Christine pointed out that 10am start was too late. Alan said that the time related to him getting other 'stuff' sorted 1st thing but he would be happy for an earlier start by others.

To be reviewed.

Bridge Magazine

Alan said he would e-mail members of this committee with a view to getting together for a preliminary meeting sometime in the first 2 weeks of Jan 2010 as convenient for all.

Last night of the proms

Date confirmed as Saturday 8th May 2010. Band booked @ £650. Details to be agreed at the next formal meeting.

Barn Dance

Barn and band booked for 12th June 2010

AOB

David Brown relayed 2 Council items for note

1. There will be a Huntingdon / Godmanchester Town Twinning Association team attending a Trade Fair at Wertheim in Germany in May 2010. David asked if anyone on the Committee knew of local companies who might be willing to contribute small (low cost) mementoes advertising their company which could be given away to members of the public, the proceeds of which will be donated to a UK charity.
2. The council have been offered a £35k playground budget which they intend to use in putting playground equipment and more hard standing at Judith's field. This will impact on Nov 5th arrangements/layout. Alan has been promised a proposal for the layout from the council to enable a discussion on minimising its impact on the Nov 5th event.

The Remembrance Sunday Service at the Godmanchester War Memorial

The Remembrance Sunday event saw the Community Association producing stewards to assist with crowd control, our thanks to Huw Gaskill, Barry McGregor, Tom Hennessey, Bill Hennessey and ex president Pat Dougherty for fulfilling this role. It was noted the road had been booked to be closed for 45 minutes which was not achieved causing distractions during the Hymn singing. It was suggested a guide of do's and don'ts be produced for the bridge magazine. It was felt this might be inappropriate as it was the councils' responsibility and they should form their own guidelines to be distributed in their periodical Newsletter

The 800 committee

Stephen summarised the activities of this group to date. Details and minutes can be viewed on the community association website (once they are uploaded)

The 800 committee had elected Stephen Spencer as their chairperson.

The community Association has been asked to act as an umbrella for this groups activities. Alan suggested the spare account that we had set up for GMC in bloom and never used be re-named as the '800 committee account' to enable the Association to manage and account for the financial activities of the 800 committee. The council has earmarked £20,000 for use by the group and there will be fundraising activities to account for also.

The association will not be undertaking any underwriting of the event but will of course have views on its own input to the celebrations.

Stephen outlined his idea of an 800 draw to raise funds. Half the money going to charity and half as prizes. To be reviewed.

Next Meeting

It was felt that that the December meeting should be a casual get together at the Comrades for all committee members and associated people. A takeaway Chinese option would be looked into.

Date Thursday 10th December, 8pm at the Comrades Club.

PLEASE RESPOND – WHO IS COMING?