

Godmanchester Community Association

Minutes of meeting held on 12th March 2009

Apologies

Stuart Bond, Nicola Rule, Jean Morgan, Debbie Middleton

Present

Alan Hooker (AH), Shirley Brown (ShB), Nina Collier (NC), Stephen Spencer (SS), Gordon Allgood (GA), David Brown (DB), Keith Chapman (KC), Bonnie Hooker (BH)

Introductions

AH had prepared an agenda to give this 1st meeting a format.

It was intended at this point to introduce new faces to the old ones but as Bonnie was the only new face and already new almost everyone it didn't take very long.

This situation prompted a discussion on the need for new, younger blood to avoid the slow demise of the committee. GA pointed out that with those present added to the apologies there was the nucleus for a sound committee and noted the attendance of the AGM as a positive sign. Newer members shared their experiences of their first contact / involvement with the Commass after which it was decided to 'Buddy' any new members to help them feel involved. A pro-active approach was needed to encourage likely new blood to join. It was decided to revisit this theme at each meeting to improve the situation.

Chairperson

- In the absence of any other volunteers to take the position, Steven Spencer said that he would be willing to take on the role but was concerned that the previous chairperson had been in the position for 7 years and had been trying to step down for some time, SS did not want to feel trapped into the position.
- GA suggested that a timescale for the term served be set.
- It was suggested that a Vice-Chair be elected to reduce the pressure and to chair meetings should SS be unable to attend.
- AH pointed out that the association now has a minute's secretary and proposed that the meetings could be run from an agenda based on the action points of the previous meetings. This would enable anyone to step into the breach if needed.
- **Steven Spencer was elected the new chairperson for the coming year and was happy to commit to the role for 12 months.**
- **Gordon Allgood was elected vice-chair**
- **SS said that his first job as the new chairperson was to recognise the efforts of his predecessor, Stuart Bond, who has made a very large contribution to the association over the past years.**

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The way forward – e-mail addresses, open or closed?

- AH said he has requested a complete list of e-mail addresses of relevant parties from Stuart to complete the set he had so far accumulated.
- The issue of having the addresses closed was raised
- ShB said that she felt that if someone gives their e-mail address/contact details then they expect them to be used
- DB pointed out that there is no way of knowing who is involved with the association as you cannot see who is also receiving the e-mails
- It was decided that once Stuart has passed on the contact details an e-mail shall be sent out Bcc to everyone who receives e-mails stating that in future all e-mails will be sent with open addresses unless you otherwise request for your address to remain BCC.
- AH asked if people were happy to receive the minutes in a word format, all those present said yes. We would look at alternatives should the need arise.

Reports

Although it is understood that not everyone can attend all the meetings, it is requested that those people with particular responsibilities and minuted actions attributed to them if unavailable need to submit a report to Bonnie 1 WEEK prior to the next meeting which can be entered into the next agenda/minutes.

Picnic in the park

- SS said that everything was booked and ordered for PIP
- SS mentioned that the PIP committee planned a slight change to the timetable of performers this year and hoped to have the school choirs on first. **SS** to contact Anthea to discuss timetable changes from last year. **SS** to contact the head teachers to invite the choirs to perform
- It was suggested that the proposed timetable of performers for PIP be included in the minutes (attached)
- **AH said that they still need bodies on the day for PIP including collecting of receipts from the climbing wall from 1.00 till 6.00pm in shifts. All volunteers gratefully received!**

Gala Day

- AH raised a query of there once being a spreadsheet produced by Roy White of jobs required for Gala Day which was a very good idea and worked well for the PIP team. Is that spreadsheet still in existence/available? If so it would be useful as a framework to work from.

- SS said that Ramsey rural museum were willing to come and do a static display. AH asked SS to find out how much space they would require as space was getting tight
- Arena events planned are Ringside Lurcher display which are booked for 2 sets of 20/30 mins at a cost of £ 690 inc. Ex's – Maypole dancing – Hugh & Barrie's extravaganza – Majorettes – Belly dancers???
- A climbing wall has been booked for both GD & PIP but will need Association volunteers to assist with the revenue collection from it leaving the operatives who come with it free to look after the working of it and controlling of children . **All volunteers gratefully received!**
- **AH** to look at the potential numbers for the wall to assist with making a decision on how much to charge for it

Carnival

- Carnival theme is Mama Mia
- DB asked if the floats were in place and if the sizes had been confirmed after the size issues last year?
- **ShB** is to ask Charlotte to provide the minute secretary with a written report of where we are with everything, who she has spoken to etc. We need written confirmation from whatever authority that there will be no snags with the procession and written confirmation of the size of Lorries hopefully available.

Bridge Magazine

- DB has agreed to organise the advertising for the Bridge but mentioned that he would like another person to assist as a 'buddy'
- It has been confirmed that Ann Hyams has offered her services to produce the layout ready for the printers. Her contact details are needed to enable her to be invited to Tuesday's meeting.
- SS said that if there was a problem hitting the target for the advertising quota he would pass on the details of his marketing lady to assist if needed
- **CONTENT FOR THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE IS REQUIRED**
- **NC** to speak to a lady she knows who may be interested in submitting an article
- **AH** to contact Barry regarding doing a puzzle page
- **GA** has some walks he thought would be good to go in the bridge but needs to speak to David Stokes to confirm that the Friends of the QE School are happy for that to happen.
- **Bridge magazine meeting booked in for Tuesday 17th March, 8pm at the Comrades club – open meeting, everyone welcome.**

Any Other Business

GMC in Bloom

- A request has been received from GMC in bloom for help with the upkeep of the flowers on the war memorial rota from Easter on a 2 week portion of its rota.
- It was agreed that we would help
- **Shb & NC** said they would take on the responsibility so will need to be informed of their designated weeks

GMC Rovers

- A request has been received from GMC Rovers for £1000 towards a new stand as 'third party funding' to enable other grants to be available.
- SS declared an interest and stepped out of the meeting while this matter was discussed.
- It was agreed that the football club played a very positive role in the town for young people and without the new stand they would have to come down a league.
- It was agreed that the Association would donate £1000

Commass Storage container

- Discussions had been ongoing within the committee regarding the potential to purchase a large storage container as a facility for storing all the association 'stuff' that is currently scattered about the town in a variety of different people's houses.
- Godmanchester Rovers had kindly offered an area on their site to house it.
- It was considered a good idea, **AH** to look into further.

The meeting was closed at 10.30 pm.

Next meeting Bridge Mag. Tuesday 17th of March. 8.00 pm Comrades Club

Next general committee meeting Thursday 9th April 8.00 pm Comrades Club

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY 2ND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, DIARISE!