



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association

Registered Charity No. 279592

Minutes of User Group Meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2008

Present:

Committee: Ian Millar (Chairman); Rachel Skinner (Vice Chair); John Pettet (Treasurer); Anne Sole; Jane Foster; Loraine Martin; Jan Dawkins (Bookings Secretary.)

User Groups:

Joan Millar (Dance Group); Denise Tosdevine (Pre-School Group); Anne Sole (Pre-School Group); Jane Foster (Pre-School Group); Rachel Corrie (Pre-School Group); Loraine Martin (Hampshire Wildlife Trust); Hilary Cope (OB Parish Council); Douglas Richardson (St Luke's Church); Hilary Lawrence (MS Group); Sarah Levinge (Badminton Group.)

1: Apologies:

Keith Taylor (Badger Farm Parish Council); Elizabeth Barrett (Winchester TKD.)

2: Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2008:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 16 July 2008 were accepted on a proposal by Loraine Martin and seconded by Joan Millar.

Matters Arising:

Ian reported that he had written a letter to Sainsbury's Head Office as requested at the previous User Group Meeting and had received a very apologetic letter. However, the person who had been in charge of the refurbishment had now moved on and his concerns had not been fully acknowledged. He said he would try again to make some contact but it was difficult to find anybody to talk to.

3: Report from Executive Committee Chairman:

The Chairman reported:

The Committee had agreed that the external woodwork needed attention. Quotes were awaited from two firms for repainting the doors and windows and replacing some rotten fascia in the entrance canopy. The upper level woodwork would be repainted the following year as it seemed to be in good order.

Having taken advice, the Committee had agreed that the disabled toilet needed to be brought up to current standards in accordance with legislation by the installation of an emergency audio/visual alarm activated by a pull-cord located inside the toilet. In addition, the light switch would be changed to a pull-cord. Users were requested to turn off the light after use to save energy costs.

The misuse of the front garden gate was still a problem. It was an emergency exit only, which might be used for unloading and loading by user groups. There were safety and security issues when left open or unbolted. Group leaders were requested to inform their members that the gate was not to be used as an entrance to the Centre.

Ian said that he had written to all regular users the previous month asking them to turn the radiators to mark 3 on leaving the room; notices to that effect had also been put up in each room. Users' co-operation was requested in this to avoid an increase in hall hire rates before the next annual review.

The annual Bonfire and Fireworks evening would not be taking place this year due to the lack of a volunteer to co-ordinate and organise the event. A volunteer would be sought for next year and those present were asked to let him know of anyone who might be interested.

There was still more to do in bringing the Centre up to date with legislation and best practice and the Committee would be looking into those aspects in the coming months.

4: Report from Badger Farm Parish Council:

Keith was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following update:

New play equipment had been installed in the central kickabout area and some shrub cutting and clearing were planned throughout the Parish.

5: Report from Oliver's Battery Parish Council:

Hilary Cope who was the new representative gave the following report:

Hilary said that a notice would be put up advising people that the Bonfire and Fireworks evening would not be taking place and the main gate to the recreation ground would be locked from 31 October to 9 November to deter people from leaving wood etc.

Hilary reported that plans were still being considered for a tennis court and play area but this may take some time.

In reply to a query, the Chairman confirmed that he had attended the recent Greening Launch which went well and was well attended.

A Safer Neighbourhood meeting with local police was due shortly.

Oliver's Battery had recently lost two council members.

It was hoped to have bicycle racks at Oliver's Battery shortly and discussions were still ongoing regarding the village sign placement. There was also a new hairdresser at Oliver's Battery. There was some discussion about the closure of Sparks and what would happen to the building and/or land.

6: User Group Reports:

St Luke's Church: Douglas reported that the recent event for senior citizens held at St Luke's over five days had been a great success with an average of 36 people attending, 90% of whom they had not met before. The charge had been £3 for the day and everybody was collected and taken home afterwards. Douglas said that grants had been available from Winchester City Council and the Hampshire Chronicle but the Church had discovered they were not eligible to apply as it could be viewed as proselytizing. Douglas said the Church were rather upset and dismayed at this view.

He said they did not expect to be discriminated against in this way and stated that the Church met the need wherever it was and had to raise all monies for this event through their congregation. The Chairman said that if the Church had run the event under the umbrella of the Community Association, it was likely it could have applied for the grant and passed it onto the Church. The Chairman asked Douglas to bear this in mind for any events planned by the Church for next year.

Pre-School Group: Rachel asked the Committee to let users know as soon as possible if rents were to be raised to cover costs in order to allow for forward planning. She also mentioned a green health check on buildings and the Chairman advised that he had already done an energy audit.

HWLT: Loraine said her group had suffered some disturbance from the Social Club whilst having their meeting in the Bushfield Room. Ian said he would have a word with the Social Club about this.

Dance Group: Joan asked if the timing for the light sensor in the ladies toilet could be extended as 10 minutes did not appear to be long enough in some cases and Ian said he would check this.

Badminton: Sarah was happy and had no comments.

MS Group: Hilary asked if the Centre could purchase some plastic tumblers. Rachel agreed that she would get these. It was also noted that the cupboard in the kitchen needed tidying and the crockery was in a poor condition. The Chairman said he would look at this. It was agreed generally that the kitchen was very good.

7. Any Other Business:

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.40pm. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 21 January 2009 at 8.00pm.