

# Longparish Community Association

**Meeting: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at 20.00 at Yew Tree House courtesy of David Wright**

## **06/68 Present:**

Chair Fiona Gould, Jeremy Barber, Wendy Ellicock, Gloria Goodliffe, Andy Smith, David Wright and invited speaker Helen Mehaffey

Apologies: Alix Bremridge, Christine Beresford, Patrick Beresford, Jonathan Evans, Toby Cooper

## **06/69 Community use of the new facilities**

Fiona welcomed Helen Mehaffey, chair of Longparish School Governors. Helen was invited to speak about the progress of agreeing a policy for community use of the new facilities. She started by affirming the goodwill of the governing body and that it was their intention to enable community use of the new facility.

There have been many significant snagging problems (particularly with the heating and security systems) and some significant ones have still to be overcome but there is a will to seek a way forward.

The new PE requirements mean that the hall will not be available for as much of the school day as John Ellicock had envisaged.

Philip Howie is the governor appointed to chair the reformed hall management committee. The committee is made up of representatives of all potential users of the facility. Jonathan Evans represents the church and is a Governor, Maggie Barber represents the playgroup, Penny Chermiside-Surgeson is the school representative and Sandra Jones and Gloria Goodliffe represent the old village hall committee. Helen has briefed Philip to set up meetings with the aim of resolving the many issues surrounding community use of the new facilities. She apologised for the lack of communication in the past and although she regretted the way there had been a hike in the charges of the community hall without consultation with the Hall Management Committee, she said that we are where we are and have to go forward.

The school now has a licence. There are five conditions on the licence, all conditions are linked to noise reduction to the neighbours. The school have a nominated bar person should an event take place where alcohol would be for sale. Fiona asked if LCA events needed to use the nominated bar person and Helen said that was not necessary. Fiona and David Gould were thanked for their input and help with obtaining the licence.

There was an extensive discussion about the charges. Helen was unclear about exactly how the costing had been arrived at but was very cautious because as a governing body there is a financial responsibility to not make a loss nor a profit. Costs for running the hall are not definitive as there are some issues, surrounding heating and electricity, that are yet to be resolved.

The LCA reported considerable concern at the amount of the new charges which were putting people off using the new facility. This was heightened because of the huge efforts and

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generous giving from the community contributed significantly to the funds raised for the new buildings.

Up till now use of the community hall has generated an income of £500 and there was also the donation of £100 from the LCA. Expenses were £480, though these consisted largely of items of one-off capital expenditure. This was an area where the LCA had hoped to be able to help as it had access to grants not available to the school and the parish council had already earmarked up to £3,000 in anticipation of an application.

LCA said it felt that the £50 charge for an evening was too expensive for many potential users. Helen assured us that hire charges would be reviewed regularly, and the group expressed a clear wish to see and understand the cost calculations.

The governors have, at the moment, very pressing issues that effect the smooth running of the school and the efficient delivery of the curriculum. While everyone present understood the difficulties of the school governors, the group hoped that the school governors could give greater priority to facilitating the use of the hall by the community. There was no deadline for resolving the open points but Helen had every faith in Philip's ability to steer the management committee to a mutual agreement, well before next summer. The LCA repeated their view of the benefits of joint management of the two halls under the aegis of the Community Association. Helen said that she and the Governors still need time to work through the issues

Reassuring the community about the Governors' intentions was a primary concern of all present and Helen said that to try and improve communications and she would write a piece for Hill and Valley outlining the school's position on community use of the new facilities.

## **06/70 Actions from last meeting**

**Carry forward:** Christine to design form for affiliate groups.

David has spoken to the Youth Group about spending strategy and they are happy to work on a petty cash basis and be reimbursed for sales as needed.

**Carry forward:** Fiona is still working on the child protection policy but the parts she submitted for insurance purposes satisfied and impressed the insurers.

Christine has stuffed the Hurstbourne Priors magazines with membership forms. To date there have been no replies. Jeremy will visit the next Hurstbourne Priors parish council meeting and give them a report.

David discussed the needs of LCA with Anne who has been given a list of trustees who may sign for goods at the shop. He has not yet had a response from Anne on what prices they may be able to offer to supply the KidzZone tuck-shop.

**Action:** David to talk with Anne again and get her proposals. The committee can then decide if it wishes to provide a subsidy to allow the shop to supply whilst keeping the prices appropriate for the KidzZone members.

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Alix and Gloria have purchased glasses and storage boxes that can primarily be used for Moviola evenings but can also be made available for other groups.

Alix has held a meeting to discuss the running of the first Moviola evening on 28<sup>th</sup> September and plans are well in hand.

**Carry forward:** Gloria to arrange snacks for the first Moviola evening.

**Carry forward** Gloria will liaise with the village hall committee to make sure that the Hog the Limelight event in October runs smoothly.

**Carry forward:** Fiona to speak with Corrine about a treasure hunt.

Jeremy has spoken to Liz Bourne about a Christmas Quiz and it is hoped that it will be on sale in November.

**Carry forward:** Fiona to look into the possibility of running a first aid course linked with the Youth Group and the LCA health and safety policy.

## **06/71 Membership**

Membership remains the same as it was at the last meeting. It is anticipated that membership will increase when activities start in the coming months. Christine has a mobile membership centre ready to enrol anyone at forthcoming events.

## **06/72 Treasurers report.**

David reported that LCA has a balance of £2895. The major expenses since the last meeting being:

- £135 Youth group provisions
- £125 Football table purchase
- £100 Donation to the school
- £177 Glasses and storage
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We have received a donation from Jonathan Evans for the purchase of the football table.

It is recognised that there is an urgent need to have a meeting dedicated to planning activities and finance, an important element of which will be discussing the potential usage of the £3000 in the Parish Council's budget for implementation of the Parish Plan.

**Action:** Fiona to talk with Christopher Duxbury about funding requirements still remaining for implementation of existing Parish Plan proposals

Paul Knipe has spoken to LCA about its support of conservation in the village. This could be linked to the implementation of the Parish Plan.

**Action:** Fiona to talk to Paul and possibly invite him to a meeting to explain his ideas.

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## **06/73 Activities update**

### **Moviola**

Everything is in place for the first film night on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Tickets available at the door and from the shop £4.50 and £5 dependant on membership status.

**Action:** **Everyone** please be prepared to offer support from 6 onwards on 28<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Walks and Coffee mornings**

Wendy reported that numbers for the walks varied between 2 and 7 and she was not prepared to give up mornings indefinitely for the benefit of so few people. For the next two months she has sorted out dates and will then decide if the activity is worthwhile. Paula Vize held the last coffee morning and the next one will be held at Jacqui Healy's house. It was suggested that more people might attend if an e-mail reminder was send out to them the previous day.

Wendy said she was not willing to undertake that task but was willing to put a notice in the parish magazine.

**Action:** **Wendy** to announce dates in Hill and Valley.

### **Sunday Run**

Jeremy said that the Sunday run was now almost a reality. He had arranged with the Cricket Club to use their facilities to start and finish at their premises. The runs may well start in October depending on the closure situation of roads on his proposed route.

## **06/74 Kidz Zone**

### **Activities**

The club is well attended by 7 to 20 children every fortnight. Their activities revolve around table football, pool, dodge ball and just chilling out. They are well catered for with sofas and donated football and pool tables. The first off site activity - bowling has taken place and was deemed a success.

There are an increasing number of children on the organising committee and there have been requests for weekly meetings from the children. This frequency of meeting would put an enormous pressure on the volunteers but maybe eventually the parents of the children attending might become more involved.

### **Child Protection Policy**

Fiona is still working on the policy. She is basing it on the requirements of a major grant funding organisation. There was a meeting of the Youth Group last Monday and they read the draft as it stands and agreed that it was workable. There will be some need for volunteer staff to formalise their role within the group. The intention is that any form filling will arise from a need rather than just for the sake of bureaucracy. Most helpers in the group are already CRB checked but they will work towards all volunteers being checked. When the youth group are satisfied with the policy it will come before the trustees for discussion and adoption.

### **Village Hall**

With the robust activities of the youth group and the increased need of storage there are some material changes that need to be made. Trevor has drawn up some plans that will meet the needs of the youth group and the community as a whole. The village hall committee is

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meeting soon to discuss these proposals. Whatever happens, the village hall is in need of a fair amount of remedial work to keep it operational. Wendy wanted to know if the community would be asked to make donations towards these changes. In answer, there are grants available for village halls and now we have a thriving youth group and drama group now seems a good time to apply. TVBC has £15k for parish improvements and the parish council holds about £40k which was put in reserve for hall improvements over the years. The group did not consider it necessary or appropriate in the circumstances to plan, at this stage, on community fund-raising.

## **06/75 Communications**

To be carried over to the next meeting.

**Action:** All - can we persuade anyone to help the committee by taking on responsibility for communicating with our members?

## **06/76 What's next?**

It is evident that there is a need for a meeting dedicated to finance and communications. The next meeting will specifically arranged to target these topics.

## **06/77 Dates of next meetings**

12<sup>th</sup> October at Yew Tree House at 20.00

9<sup>th</sup> November at Long Mead House at 20.00

The meeting closed not too much later than planned at 22.10!