

Cornforth Community Centre Management Committee Meeting 16th November 2005

Present: Mr T Dodds (in the chair), Mr B Clinton, Mrs C Clinton, Mrs A Currie, Mr T Cutmore, Mrs H P Drew, Mr P Ferguson, Mrs J Pennick, Mr S Pennick, Mrs R Richardson, Mrs A Robinson, Mr S Robinson, Mrs T Robinson, Mrs S Traynor and Mrs V Weir.

Apologies: Ms R Bellingham, Mrs M Craggs, Mrs G Dodds, Mrs C Liddle, Ms K Lynn, Mrs E Maddison, Ms S Raine, Mrs J Stephenson, Mr T Stephenson, Mr A Stubbs, Mrs J Sweeting, and Ms C Warbis.

The meeting was opened at 6.30pm by Mrs Traynor.

Matters arising

The members of the committee who had visited Wheatley Hill Community Gym reported to the rest of the meeting and pictures of the Gym there were circulated.

Mrs Drew suggested that there should be a public meeting held at the Centre to launch a fund for a Community Gym based on the Centre and to get volunteers prepared to run it when it gets off the ground. The meeting agreed and the date of Thursday 26th January at 7.30pm was chosen. The committee members from Cornforth House agreed to publicise the meeting and Mrs Pennick said she would ask the Headmistress of the school to put it in the School Newsletter.

The rave on the 11th November had been bigger than the first and Shane Parkin had given £48.00 to the Centre and £38.00 to the Youth Club. The Centre had mostly been left in a good state but Mr Dodds reported there had been some chewing gum on the floor of the Hall which had to be removed. There was some comment that there had been complaints from residents near the Centre about rubbish left. Mrs Currie, Mrs T Robinson, Mr Ferguson and Mr Cutmore said they hadn't been aware how far the rubbish problem had spread from the Centre but would be aware for the next rave. The next rave was agreed for 16th December 2005.

Mr Dodds reported that the Premises Licence had still not arrived.

John Atkinson from CAVOS had not got back to Mrs Pennick about an architect so she had found another herself, got a second quote and sent it to the County Council.

Mr Dodds reported that he had spoken to Deerness Fencing of Bowburn regarding the erection of ball stop fencing. They would need to use a machine to erect it but were concerned about the possibility of the machine sinking into the pitch. Some committee members were concerned whether the fencing was adequately insured.

Vandalism had occurred to the Centre. Mr Dodds told the Committee that in the previous fortnight all the downcomers around the Centre had been taken down and that a fire had been started in rubbish put against the fire door at the back of the building. Luckily this happened on the night of the Youth Club and the fire services were alerted before major damage could occur. It was noted that members of the YC did not start the fire and the police had been informed.

Mrs Traynor related a recent incident when three youths had followed her into the Centre one Wednesday night after she had unlocked the Centre alone for the Badminton Club. After they had left she discovered that the fire door by the Snooker Room had been unbolted. It was suggested that female keyholders should not be open/close the building unaccompanied.

Mr Pennick suggested that the cover above the rear fire door be removed taking away shelter, which may be encouraging people around the back of the Centre. Mr Pennick and Mr Ferguson volunteered to co-ordinate this with the delivery of a skip.

Mr Cutmore said that three youths from Cornforth had attended a fire awareness course through the Partnership and they had been surprised and frightened by what they had learned. Mr Cutmore hoped they would talk to their peers about what they had found out.

The Christmas cards had raised £250 to date. A £250 donation from the Parish Council, towards the Pantomime, had been received with thanks.

Mr Dodds reported that a clock had been purchased for Mr Stubbs and that it had been engraved with the Committee's thanks for all the work he had done for the Centre over the years. The clock had been presented at the Saturday Night Dance on 5th November and that Mr Stubbs had been very touched.

The page in the Cornforth Partner was discussed. It was suggested that the public meeting for the Gym be publicised in it.

Thanks were given to Mr Pennick and his brother for fixing the lights in the Gents Toilet, the spotlights on the front of the building and the strip lights in the corridor. Mr Pennick reported that the asbestos piping had been removed from the Centre's grounds.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence

Other business

Mr Pennick had a number of points to bring up. He floated the idea of using e-Bay to raise funds and made a request for items to sell from the committee. He suggested that local businesses could be approached for raffle prizes, e.g. vouchers for goods or services. He suggested that Committee members might like to wear fancy dress or something festive for the Christmas Fair. With reference to the Fair he reported that he had received an e-mail from Mr B Kirkup requesting a stall at the Christmas Fair. It was agreed that he could have one for £10.00. Mr Dodds said that he had been approached by Julie Welford for a stall as well. She too would be charged £10.00.

Mrs Pennick reported she would be taking a stall at the Salvation Army's Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November to sell Christmas Cards and Pantomime tickets and promote the activities of the Community Centre. It was requested that Christmas Cards be sold at our Saturday night dance. They would be displayed at the entrance.

It was suggested that a special concession be given to OAP's attending the Pantomime. This will be discussed at the special meeting which is scheduled for 17th November.

Mr Pennick requested that a skip be arranged to pick up rubbish from the rear of the building. Mr Dodds said he would talk to the Parish Council Clerk.

There was a discussion about the bus shelter opposite the Centre as Mr Pennick said the Parish Council would be receiving a letter requesting its removal or replacement with a shelter, which could not be climbed on. It was agreed to wait to see the Council's reaction to the letter.

Mr S Robinson had collected some free paint on our behalf from a local recycling initiative and he and Mr Pennick thought it would be a good idea to paint the entrance hall and lobby to brighten up the entrance to the Centre.

Following a comment in the meeting it was decided that from 1st January 2006 the Centre would be a No Smoking building and anyone wanting a smoke would have to go outside the Centre. Apparently many smokers already do leave the building to have a cigarette.

Mrs Drew raised the question of membership and session fees. There was a long discussion and no decision was taken, there was some consensus that session fees should not rise but membership fees could be raised.

Mrs Drew was asked to write to Sedgfield Borough to request a copy of the lease agreement for the Centre.

Mr Pennick asked whether the Committee's minutes could be published on the Cornforth web site and after discussion it was agreed.

The next meeting will be on the 14th December at 6.00 pm before the Carol Service. Members were asked to provide mince pies as usual.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm by Mrs R Richardson.