



Website: www.leasowecommunitycentre.co.uk

Leasowe Play Youth & Community Association

Registered Charity Number 702959

Leasowe Community Centre, Twickenham Drive,
Leasowe, Wirral. CH46 1PF

Tel: 0151-691-1595

Minutes of the JMC meeting held on Thursday 11th September - 2014

Members Present

Jane Davies, Paul Townley, Sheila Henry, Ken Williams, Ian Lewis, Emma Hopwood. Danny McGarry Councillor Anita Leech, Councillor Treena Johnson & Lesley May

Apologies

Tina Amis, Pauline Murphy, Councillor Ron Abbey, Ken Murphy, Mary Quigg; Sandra Camello,

Minutes of Last Meeting

These had been circulated

Matters Arising May Minutes

Councillor Anita Leech asked to make some amendments and ask some questions arising from the May minutes-

She asked if Dianthus had been sent a letter regarding them leaving the Centre. Paul said that he and Mandy had met. There had been a conflict in terms of the room that they had wanted to rent. A rent increase had been agreed the week before between the Centre and Dianthus. Jane had met with Mandy before Dianthus had left – the meeting had been friendly and Jane and Mandy had laughed about Dianthus taking over the room with their equipment. It was thought by a few Committee Members that a move had already been planned, due to the speed at which Dianthus had moved. Sheila Henry said that this was not true Dianthus had moved due to a disagreement about the room.

Anita asked if anything had been done about the faulty extractor fan in the kitchen. Paul had reported it to Mary Quigg who was looking for a contractor. Paul said he would chase up the matter.

The remark that John Storey made that 7 Waves Radio would change its core identity was explained that now operating as Wirral Radio and being broadcast on DAB and covering a much larger area meant that there would be changes at the Radio Station.

The Food Bank referred to by Councillor Ron Abbey was situated at the Millennium Centre.

The Construction Course did not take place

The weatherproof shelter which smokers could use had not been practical –legally the distance that had to be between the shelter and the Centre meant smokers would be subjected to the weather before reaching the shelter.

A short discussion took place about 'the ownership' that some groups using the Centre have regarding the rooms that they use. Emma Hopwood suggested that people using the Centre should have a person – not on the JMC that they can refer problems to e.g. the condition that some rooms have been left in. This is awkward as there is no Centre Manager and in the past Tina has had to deal with the majority of problems. Groups using the Centre agree to the Rental Terms

and Conditions when they sign the Rental Form. Sheila said that all space in the Centre has to be fully utilised and offered to speak to anyone that is causing a problem
Anita asked if Dianthus had paid in lieu of notice – Paul said he would check and she mentioned that Leasowe Community Homes were not listed on the current agenda

Matters Arising July Minutes

Emma Hopwood pointed out that Jenny Docherty was fully trained and worked at the activities centre in Our Lady of Lourdes Church but was working for Holy Spirit

Ian Lewis pointed out that he had taken the 28 youngsters out with other helpers and had not taken them by himself as it could be implied from the minutes.

Anita asked if the professional energy assessment had taken place by PEGS – Paul said he would get on to them.

Regarding the Cleaning Contract a decision has been deferred until September. The person currently doing the cleaning, Emma Cooper was getting the correct paperwork together and is not a husband and wife team as stated in the July minutes.

Anita said that regarding the Leasowe Hub event, she had not said that the children were not bothered as it was recorded in the minutes. Some feedback she had received had been that the event was disappointing

The car park being developed on part of Fernlea would have a gate leading out to the Millennium Centre

Correspondence

Jane read a letter that she had received from Roy Sheriff, Leasowe Development Trust. In the letter he formally complained about the treatment of Jenni Jones at the previous meeting and things that had been said by Emma Hopwood. The incident was when the JMC had been talking about bringing out the two computers they had in storage for use by people at the Centre, Jenni had felt that this would duplicate a service that LDT were offering to the public and Emma thought that this would not be the case. Jane read her reply to those present in which she said that she was not aware that anything inflammatory had been said by Emma and no one could remember the comments by Jenni and Emma being an issue at the last meeting

Those present at the meeting, who had attended July's meeting did not remember anything derogatory having been said and Emma was naturally very upset that her remarks could have been misunderstood and evoked such a response. She left the meeting so that it could be discussed in her absence. The unanimous view of the JMC was that Jenni must have been mistaken about what had been said and they supported Emma Hopwood. Paul said he would set up a meeting with Roy, Anita offered to go with Paul, so that the matter could be discussed and any misunderstanding between the JMC and LDT be resolved.

Ken Williams commended Jane for the reply that she had sent to Roy Sheriff but was upset that in all of the years that he had sat on the JMC nothing like this had ever happened.

An email had been received by the Karate Club mentioning that they were not featured on the Centre's website. Paul said he would rectify the oversight

Treasurers Report

Paul submitted a written report for the members

Current Balances:

- Current Account £23, 102.94
- Minibus Account £ 2, 118.96
- Savings Account £34, 796.00

The accounts were up to date with no outstanding bills.

Copies of the draft of the Annual Accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2014 had been circulated at the last meeting. As there had been no feedback or queries the drafts will now be finalised for the AGM in October

There had been a problem in setting up an Internet connection as the phone line at the Centre was owned by the Council. Sheila offered to contact the IT department at the Council and ask how this problem can be overcome. It was asked what had happened to the phone line that Dianthus had when renting a room and Sheila said she would look into that

An SLA had been drawn and sent to PEGS, Paul said he would send copies of it to Jane and Sheila, together with the other relevant paperwork, Terms and Conditions etc. But had received no response PEGS had started to move some furniture into the room but would not be able to start operating until the Internet was available. Paul said he would contact PEGS

Ian gave a brief history of how the JMC had received the £6k which had been given to the JMC – it was from Barrett Homes to purchase play equipment for Kingham Close play area and had come to light when Ian had asked David Green at the Council if there were any monies around that developers had left with the Council to purchase Play Equipment. This money can only be spent on Kingham Close and cannot be used for any other purpose but as the area has a problem with anti social behaviour it has never been used. Danny said that £6k would not go very far but Jane said they were hoping to supply boulders to the play area that children could climb and play on. It was discussed if this money could be used to pay half the amount needed to put a gate/bars on the footpath preventing motor bikes being ridden into the play area.

Senior Playleader

Danny told the Committee about the news that he had received on the Monday, which has now been released, that is the proposed withdrawal of all Council Funding, from 1st April 2015, for Play Schemes. On the web it said that money would be withdrawn from Play Scheme but affects, but it applies to all of the Play Schemes in the Wirral. Danny is in an awkward position – he is a Council employee and cannot do anything to protest against this decision – all he can do is report on the information that he is given. Leasowe Adventure Playground had started operating in the 1970's and has provided a valuable service to the area and a safe place for the children. They have had a brilliant summer where many activities for the children on the estate have been run. A Race Night raised one thousand pounds which was used to take the children to Chester Zoo. If the Adventure Playground is closed not only will it cause the loss of Danny's job but it will also mean that there is no provision for children on the estate. This will hit the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Paul said that Ken Murphy was the ideal person to spear head a campaigning to save the Playground and the meeting agreed that he should be approached to do this. The Councillors agreed that the main part of their job was to look after the Leasowe Area they would do everything they could and Anita asked that a Councillor be on the Steering Committee. Paul said that he would have both a paper petition and an online petition would be set up by early the following week Anita asked Danny if he had access to statistics regarding the Addy and Danny said that he collected statistics about the play centre as part of his job and would pass these on

People had been asking Danny about what was going to happen on Bonfire night but due to the current circumstances he was unable to plan ahead at this moment. Jane commended Danny for the phenomenal work that he has done at the Centre

Chair Jane said that she was aware that a lot of time had been spent discussing the first few matters on the Agenda and asked if subsequent reports could be kept brief

Youth Society

Ian reported that new volunteers have come on board and will be submitted for CRB checks. 26 children had been taken to the Empire Theatre, which had been an unforgettable experience and also to the Maze at Brimstage. A trustees meeting will be taking place and Ian will ensure that the rental agreement paperwork is completed and sent back.

Anita asked if the Society had sourced a television and Ian replied that they had one but they needed PEGS agreement that it should be mounted on the wall, as it is the room which PEGS will be renting.

Art Club

No report

Autumn Club

Emma reported that the alarm will not work and it is down to the grass not being cut by the 'Addy' Danny explained that in this area there were still concrete posts, which prevented a normal mower being used, as the posts will ruin mowers. The posts need to be dug out and the Council have been asked to do this. There is a need for sanitary bins and disposal bins in the toilets, especially the disabled toilet, to cope with the disposal of incontinence pads and nappies

Wirral Media Radio

No report (apologies received)

Men's Fit Club

Ken reported that all was well with the Club

Leasowe Development Trust

No report

Wirral Borough Council

No report

Councillor Reports

Councillor Ron Abbey

Apologies had been received,

Councillor Anita Leech

Anita reported that together with WBC she had been over the roads in the estate and highlighted pot holes and areas where maintenance was needed as well as working hard to try and combat the anti social behaviour in the area.

Kingsway Academy (formerly Wallasey School) had restricted pupils from leaving the premises at lunch time and it would only be 6th form pupils who would be allowed out, this was to try and address the problem of rubbish that was being dumped on the estate. Jane was worried that by restricting the number of pupils allowed out it would badly affect lunch time trade at the local shops. Leasowe Community issues were still ongoing. The following day, during their AGM a protest will be held. The protesters have been told that the problems are because of Government issues. Jane asked if it was due to the HCA surveillance system and why had it been adopted by everyone else. She was told that LCH said that the 'model' had too many 'holes' in it. They had been told by the Governance of Housing that if no progress was being seen to be made then all of the current board members will be removed and replaced by new members. Jane asked why the model was being forced on residents when they did not want it and was told it was due to 'economies of scale'

Councillor Treena Johnson

Treena said that she was very proud to have been asked to be on the board of the Leasowe Development Trust. European money had been received to help road safety matters and she had been looking at the estate with regard to 'dropped kerbs' and speed restriction measures. She had attended a meeting about the 'bed tax' and met with Pauline at Wirral Radio and was looking into an issue about the floodlight at the centre not working.

Leasowe Community Homes

No report

Any Other Business

Jenny Docherty had emailed Paul with information about the playgroup and allotment and Paul had circulated this information. A Pink Commando's group is being set up to help teach self defence to women Kirwan solicitors will be coming to the estate on a regular basis to help residents with issues regarding family law and wills. Anita reminded the committee that the Early Learning Centre still dealt with family abuse.

There will be a Lantern Festival on 31st October and leading up to that day craft classes will be run to help people make their lanterns.

Paul reiterated that the petition to saved the 'Addy' would be up and running at the beginning of the following week.

As the next meeting held will be the AGM Paul has asked that the reports be sent to him so he can circulate them prior to the meeting, this will save a lot of time on the day.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The **AGM** will be held **Thursday 16th October** at 10.30am

This will be followed by the ordinary meeting of the JMC