

**Minutes for Meeting of the Dual Use Playing Field Committee  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 18:00hrs  
John Clare School, Helpston**

PRESENT: Rosie Shackell (Chair), Rachel Simmons (Headteacher), Alex Driver (Parish Council), Lorraine Moore (Police), Jon Hunt (Secretary).

APOLOGIES:

Joe Dobson (Parish Council Chair), George McDonagh (Caretaker), Claire Spooner (School Governor), Michael Paris

Agenda

- Minutes of the last meeting
- Head Teacher report
- Matters arising report
- AOB & DONM

**1. Minutes of last AGM meeting (24<sup>th</sup> May 2012)**

- a) Playground lighting for winter pick-ups – Now complete
- b) Trim trail repairs – Done
- c) Confirmed, George now being paid for patrolling the grounds.
- d) Northborough & Barnack don't have dual use schemes but Barnack allow local community to use amenities.
- e) Confirmed, Dual Use maintenance funding can be made available from the Community Leadership Ward and Neighbourhood Council.

**2. Head teacher's report**

- a) Few issues and concerns related to dual use have been reported since last meeting:
  - i. John Clare Festival in the summer– Field was open in the evening, tables and chairs were moved around causing minor disruption the following morning. Action – waiting to see the John Clare Society schedule of events for 2013. Dual Use made a recommendation that event holders should take responsibility to remove equipment the night before.
  - ii. Young teenage group with bikes using the field and inadvertently causing damage. Dirt mounds at bottom of field being used as a bike track but are not safe as they made up of rubble from building works. Actions taken – Lorraine (Police) has spoken to the younger people and they seem to have moved on. Service Enterprise will hopefully flatten mounds to minimise risk of injury.
  - iii. Older teenage group also using the field. The group were coming onto site late in the evening, drinking alcohol, leaving broken glass & litter. Actions taken – School gates were closed for 4 days and group don't seem to have been back since.

- iv. Fencing damaged at bottom of field. Damage possibly caused by farming equipment. Rachael to follow up with land owner. Possibility that Service Enterprise can repair.

### 3. Questions & Matters arising from the report

- a) Question was asked if...a local group or person could close the school gate at the weekends and in the summer evenings. Action - Rachel to check if Marion Connell would be willing to look into this. Possibility that a minor grant could be made available to support this via the Parish Council. December and June are times to apply and can be done through '*helpston.net*'. Action - Alex & Rosey.
- b) Possibility of adding a BMX track to the field was discussed if safety & risk could be managed (e.g fenced off area in the field with public path access). Rachel mentioned there would be parents willing to try and raise funds to support this. Some parents also willing to liaise with younger people if idea is received well. Routes for funding were discussed such as..£2000 community cohesion grant & funding from developers.
- c) Question was asked if... there was another area or field in the village that could be made available for Play Equipment and/or a BMX track? Surrounding villages have received amenity funding support from City Council. Most of Helpston's has come from local groups, committees and parents. Action - Alex to discuss possibility of City Council funding at next Parish Council meeting. Does the recent damage and problems help provide a better case for this?

### 4. Any Other Business

- a) New parish web site - **helpston.net** - Each Helpston community group is welcome to advertise and have a webpage. Action - Jon to upload Dual Use minutes & signed Constitution.
- b) Campaign for improved broadband speed in Helpston can be found on the web site - All interested parties are encouraged to register at [connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk](http://connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk). Only e-mail address and phone line required to register.
- c) Two fixed litter bins are breaking. Hoping to source new bins from the City Council. Action - Alex to chase at next Parish Council meeting.
- d) The Dual Use Constitution was reviewed by the attendees and references to trustee's were removed. Action - Revised constitution to be signed by the Chair and Secretary and copy to be kept with School Head.
- e) Group contact telephone numbers are :
  - i. Lorraine. Tel - 101 - ask for mobex 7112643
  - ii. Jon. Tel - 07836671526
  - iii. Rosey. Tel - 07763209979
  - iv. Rachel. Tel - 01733 252332

**DONM** - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 18:00hrs. Meeting closed at 7pm.