

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10th October 2007 at the Rawstorne Centre

Present: Councillor Mrs. M Dowling, (Chair)

Councillors T Threlfall, T Fiddler, Linda Burn, Mrs. E Willis, C Robb, Mrs. S Delany
Mrs. M Whitehead and P Quinn

Representatives from the Rawstorne Centre, Football, Cricket, Netball and Tennis
sections.

Apologies: Councillors St J Greenhough, Mrs. M Foster and L Rigby,

1) An informal discussion on the current use of the Rawstorne Centre and guidelines for its future use

Councillor Fiddler stated that the Council was concerned that children, without prior booking or supervision, were using the AWS area and there was a lot of rubbish and debris in the area. The impression was that the Executives did nothing to keep the kids out and to keep the area clean. The perception given by the Executive was that they were only responsible for the bar area. He re-stated that the initial concept of the Rawstorne Centre was a centre run by the sections for the sections and not just a social club.

He stated that the AWS area was in need of repair and the initial estimates indicated that it would cost approximately £10k. The Council was reluctant to spend this amount of money unless there were some guarantees that the area would be supervised properly.

A general discussion followed and the following points were raised:-

1. The Centre is only open two nights a week from 7:30pm and at weekends, but a number of bookings were made outside these times. In addition, the booking clerk was no longer working at the Centre and this made control of area more difficult.
2. It was pointed out that the fees charged were well below the charges for other centres and some users were not charged at all. In addition, although the area was pre-booked, if the user did not use the facilities no charge was made.
3. There was concern expressed at the number of keys that have been issued to regular users and the lack of control over the use of these keys.

The following action plan was agreed:-

1. The booking arrangements should be undertaken within house and therefore a letter should be sent to the current Clerk terminating her contract.
2. The AWS area should be made more secure by withdrawing all the existing keys and making the fencing more secure.
3. Consider employing a caretaker who would be responsible for supervising the area when it was being used. This would include opening and locking the gates and ensuring the correct footwear was worn. The Clerk agreed to come up with some costings for this arrangement.
4. It was suggested that The YMCA, at Lytham, should be contacted to see if they were interested in Managing the area.
5. New fees would be agreed and each user should be asked to pay in advance for block bookings and no refunds would be given. In addition, a new agreement, for use of the area, would be drawn up and issued to each user.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed..... M Dowling, Chairman.....

Date.....05/11/07.....