

**Minutes of the Lode Tennis Club Committee held on Tuesday 01 December 2015
at 27 Station Road at 7.30pm**

Present: Jeff Kempster Denise Bardan John Lince
 Will Jaggard Sally Jaggard Mo Brown

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| 1. | Apologies received from Lesley Pulvertaft | |
| 2. | The minutes of the committee meeting held on 3 September 2015 were accepted as a true record. | |
| 3. | The Safari Party had been a great success and made a small contribution to club funds. | |
| 4. | Since the last meeting the perimeter bricks around the court had been lifted and relaid by Will, and there had been work parties who had performed weed clearance and laid a membrane and slate chippings around two sides of the court. The level of weed infestation around the other two sides will be monitored in the spring and a decision made about laying a membrane and covering in a similar fashion on those sides. Will indicated that he might be able to get a good price for the slate chippings if required. | |
| 5. | The new court surface was proving to be a great success with everyone who had played on it and reported back. It was noted that there had been a lot of leaves and minor vegetative debris on the court recently and Sally had cleared the worst of the leaves away. It was decided to look into the practicalities of using extension electric cables and trying a leaf blower (carefully so as not to disturb the sand in the court) to clear the rest of this. | WJ/JL/JK |
| 6. | The Amey Community Fund grant had eventually been refused despite all the efforts to secure it. Jeff was waiting to hear back from En Tous Cas with some ball park estimates for replacing the perimeter fencing with a view to a possible grant application in the future using the grant application work that had already been done. | JK |
| 7. | As the Amey grant had been refused the club would now have to see if there was any possibility of obtaining an award from the Lode Social Club Fund when it was eventually set up next year. If that was not forthcoming the club would have to increase its fundraising activities next year. | All |
| 8. | Jeff explained that the tennis court was owned by the Parish Council, and that the tennis club only existed to administer the running of the court to make it available to the parishioners of Lode and Longmeadow. As a consequence the Parish Council always paid for any work that needed to be done to <u>their</u> court. However there was a tacit expectation that Lode Tennis Club would make donations to the Parish Council in order that it did not have to use public funds to maintain the court. Until now, that had always been the case, but the Parish Council had accepted that, on this occasion there would be a temporary shortfall of around £3,000 or so, and that the club would continue to make donations as soon as it was able to over the next 3 years until the notional 'shortfall' was cleared. | |
| 9. | Sally informed the meeting that a contribution of £9,000 had been made to the Parish Council which had left the club with a bank balance of £668.81. The paperwork had been sent to ECDC so that the grant of £2,996 should be paid to the Parish Council. The final bill for the work on the court (net of VAT) was £15,326. The notional shortfall was therefore £3,330. | |
| 10. | The point was made that, if any essential maintenance expenditure was required during the period before this had been cleared it should still be done, and Jeff agreed that this was the | |

case, but that the club should be careful to honour its commitment to the Council to make good the shortfall as soon as it was able to. Consequently any expenditure on 'nice to have' projects should be avoided in the short term.

11. Will suggested that the problems with the broken sections of the perimeter fence wire (around the top) could be repaired ourselves if need be, as it would just require the acquisition of a reel of the relevant wire. It was decided that the situation regarding the perimeter fence would be monitored for the time being, and dealt with if it deteriorates too much.
12. Lesley Pulvertaft had suggested that a sturdy entrance mat should be set up just inside the court, (chained to ensure it does not disappear) so that mud is not traipsed onto the new surface. She had volunteered to find a suitable one and wanted to donate this to the club. It was agreed that this would be a good idea, with one proviso, that Jeff would check with En Tous Cas about how a foot 'bath' to remove spores from shoes of all visitors would work, and whether it would conflict with this idea. LP/JK
13. Denise asked about what will happen regarding tennis coaching next year. Jeff explained that this would all depend upon the Coach - David Nation, and what he would be able to provide. It appeared likely from discussions with him last year that he will not be able to do weekend sessions for 8 weeks, and the possibility of one or two weeks of mid week tennis 'camps' during the school holidays had been mooted. This might preclude adult coaching, but adults could get together themselves and book the coach for individual hour sessions at the weekends. It might be necessary to put up the charges to juniors to £5 per session to ensure that the club's funds are not overly drained by this activity.
14. Jeff informed the meeting that a request had been received from Papworth Tennis Club to come and see the new surface in the same way as we had visited the private court in Kimbolton. Jeff will book a slot for them to play at a time and date to be arranged. Mo asked about whether there would be any form of reward from En Tous Cas for this, and it was pointed out that Lode Tennis Club was already getting a reward albeit on an informal quid pro quo basis. Apart from a very keen installation price, the managing director, Rory Shepherd had indicated that he would not want to show people around a court that was not well maintained, and that if we were prepared to let him show people our court he would obviously be looking it over himself and if any minor work was required he would 'send his man round' prior to any visits. JK
15. It was agreed that the Safari Dinner should be repeated next year as it had been so successful. Consideration would be given to increasing the contributions from diners, and lessening the contribution to providers so that it would be guaranteed to be a fund raiser. MB/DB
16. It was agreed that the next social event would be held in April or May next year, possibly a Curry Evening, although this would be decided at the next meeting. A more realistic pricing would be considered with fund raising in mind. A Quiz Night was suggested, which it was felt would be better for later in the year possibly next September.
17. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 8 March 2016 at 7.30pm at Will and Sally's house.
18. There being no other business the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm with thanks to the members for their attendance.