

**Minutes of the Lode Tennis Club Committee held on Thursday 4 May 2017
at 19 Abbey Lane at 7.30pm**

Action by

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

1. The minutes of the committee meeting held on 2 March 2017 were accepted as a true record (except for a correction required to the date which should have been 2017 and not 2016).
2. A lot of the debris on the court had cleared of its own accord. Will was still waiting for an appropriate time to spray the court with mosskiller. John Lince had cut the grass around the perimeter and will finish this job soon. WJ/JL
3. It was decided that the club would acquire an appropriate trophy for the mixed doubles competition, which could be reused in subsequent years. It was expected that this would cost around £60. John Lince will investigate the options available and report back in time for the presentation in September. JL
4. JK explained that this meeting had been called as a result of a sequence of events which had changed the situation regarding grant applications from Amey (and other funding) and regarding the timetable for the committee's plans regarding the fencing surrounding the court.
5. Having worked through the Amey Community Fund grant application paperwork, it had become apparent to JK that (apart from all the complicated administrative hoops) it would be unlikely that an application to Amey would be successful because we would be unable to demonstrate readily the need for a state of the art new fence surround, when it was apparent that a simple repair would be adequate.
6. JK had also spoken to Charlie Platten and now had an insight into what the Lode & Longmeadow Charity Trust would consider in an application for funding from them. It was clear that they would expect (among other things) for there to be matching funding in place for whatever grant they might make.
7. Given these potential difficulties, JK suggested, and it was agreed, that the project for new state of the art fencing should be treated as a longer term ambition, and that the Club would concentrate, over the next few years, on saving funds for this project in the future.
8. As the Amey Grant was no longer being pursued, the requirement to hold funds to pay the 11% administration fee for any such grant, is similarly no longer required. JK suggested therefore, that the remaining shortfall in contributions to the Parish Council (amounting to £1,330) could now be paid back immediately. Sally reported that there were sufficient funds available to do this. The forthcoming Curry Night surplus should ensure that the Club would still have a bank balance in excess of £700 after this payment to the Parish Council had been made. It was unanimously agreed that the outstanding contribution to the Parish Council should be made as soon as possible.
9. JK was asked how much the new fencing, including the practice wall, would cost. En Tout Cas had indicated that the obelisk system, together with the practice wall, would cost around £10,350 plus VAT. JK pointed out that the club had managed to accumulate the £3,500 for the Parish council payment in under 18 months, and that was without changing the level of subscriptions. It was suggested that the possibility of a short term increase in subscriptions could be put to the members for consideration at the next AGM, together with an explanation of why this was being done.

10. JK reported that the chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Robert Stevens, had suggested that JK should attend the next Parish council Meeting on 8th May, or the Open Meeting on 22nd May, in order to explain the Tennis club's plans regarding the fencing for the court. This would also be an opportunity to put straight certain misconceptions that Robert had reached from reading the Tennis club minutes in isolation.
11. JK circulated a draft text of a report for the Open Parish Council meeting on 22nd May 2017. This was unanimously approved. If Sally can arrange a cheque by next Monday, JK will attend the earlier Parish Council meeting to present the cheque, and to take along example pictures of what the club is hoping to achieve. SJ / JK
12. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 1st August 2017 at Lesley and Roger's house.
13. The meeting closed at 9.30pm with thanks to the attendees for their attendance.