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Slaugham Parish Coun

Pease Pottage Community Ce

OWLER

HANDCROSS

Gail Boustead
bousteadpgail@@aol.com

I WENT TO THE OPENING OF THE FINCHES FIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE: last Saturday but unfortunately missed the actual cutting of the ribbon but thanks to some forward thinking of Ian and Jane, I was able to catch up not only with the speech by John Welch ex-chairman of the Parish Council, but that of Jeremy Quinn, our local MP. John informed those who were there early that whilst the land was owned by Mid Sussex District Council, the actual building is owned by Slaugham Parish as a whole and will be run by a management committee appointed by the Parish Council in due course. He went on to thank all those who had assisted in getting the building off the ground – CTG Consultancy who managed the build and Fowlers who won the contract for the build. Thanks also went to Sally Mclean, the Parish Clerk who kept an eye on everything including the budget which, unsurprisingly for a build of this size, went over!

However, after a few meetings, MSDC agreed to fund these extra costs which were in part related to the siting of the building; it had to be moved due to overhead power cables. The original heating system was rejected; the hall is now heated by mains gas and has underfloor heating – John asked that no-one tried to hammer nails or the like into the floor or there could be major consequences! One of the other major problems encountered was to do with the old portacabin on site and how to get rid of it. Due to the size, it was a real headache but with some thought and consultation between Andrew MacNaughton (not only a District Councillor and Parish Councillor but a Pease Pottage resident) and the owner of the local breakers yard (Bill Bridges), without too much damage to the surrounding hedges, it was lifted off site and the final touches to the car park can now go ahead. Finally, John mentioned the changing room facilities at the end of the Centre that are available for booking for any teams, and referees, who might use the playing fields – big enough for football, cricket, stool ball, any sport basically. John then handed over to Jeremy Quinn who gave a short speech before asking John, Andrew and representatives of CTG Consultancy, to join him as he cut the ribbon and officially announced the Centre open.

The Centre has a main hall, a smaller room which could be used for meetings – there are tables and chairs which can be used in any room – as well as an office which will be used by the Parish Clerk and I understand in time she will be able to be found there on certain days.

There is a stocked kitchen and by 'stocked' I mean there is an oven, kettle and crockery all of which can be included in the hire of any of the rooms. If you are thinking about the possibility of using the changing room facilities, I understand these can be hired separately to the rest of the building which could be handy I'm sure. If you would like to know more about the Centre and booking it, get in touch with Sally, the Parish Clerk on 01403 733881 or by email clerk@slaughampc.co.uk. It is certainly a lovely building with lots of potential for a variety of uses by groups or individuals and is for the use of the whole parish not just the residents of Pease Pottage.

Thank you to Pease Pottage Ladies who very kindly manned the kitchen for the afternoon, providing a wide selection of cakes as well as tea, coffee and soft drinks for the children.