

Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 17 September 2018

Present:

Committee:	Karl Jenkins (Chair) (KJ)	Linda Easton (LE)
	Carolyn Frostwick (Treasurer/Acting Secretary) (CF)	Stacey Brindle (SB)
	Bill Barrie (BB)	Brian Godfrey (BG)

Members of the Public - Mr David Tuffs, Mr Tom Price, Mrs Ann Price, Mrs Meriel Godfrey,
Mrs Rebekah Budenberg

1 Apologies for Absence

None

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th June had been circulated. It was agreed that the Minutes were a true and correct record of the Meeting. Proposed BB Seconded SB

Matters arising from the Minutes

- 3.1 LE advised that plans for the bonfire beacon commemorating Votes for Women and 100 years since the end of WW1 were progressing well. The WI are serving afternoon tea on the afternoon of 11th November and are hoping to include an exhibition in the Hall. DT advised he had the information that was used for the exhibition for the rededication of the War Memorial although some requires amendment.

No volunteers have stepped forward for the secretary role. In the short term, CF will deal with arranging meetings and preparing content for the Parish Magazine but is unable to take on any other duties.

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4.1 Chairman's Report

KJ had nothing to report that was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4.2 Treasurer's Report

CF reported that the accounts currently show a surplus of £1,992 although some large outstanding bills will reduce this considerably.

The Monday teas continue to raise funds with £375.00 being raised since they started in November 2017.

MG and CF have been in contact with the cleaners and a new plan is in place. ICP have given us 25% discount to compensate for the fall in standards as well as crediting back a day for the wrongly charged May bank holiday. They have assigned a new operative and MG will continue to monitor.

Action

4.3 Restoration Fund

CF and RB have reviewed the HLF application procedure in light of their meeting with HLF in June and looked at the requirements to apply for a Resilient Heritage Grant. More information is required and RB is to speak to our Grants Officer for assistance.

A resilient Heritage Grant will enable us to commission a report which will identify what needs to be done and in what order to protect the "Heritage" of the building. The report will become part of the next application for full funding and will add credibility to the project plans.

In the meantime, the steering committee will need to meet to modify the plans in line with HLF requirements. CF is working through the QS report to extract the costs of works to the current building and remove all new build costs.

4.4 Caretaking Report

BG advised that he had spoken to Everest Windows concerning the double glazing in the Hall. A quote had been given for £1,100 to repair one window and £6,500 for all the windows on the right-hand side of the Hall. Everest had sent some free "sliders" which BG had installed. These prevent panels being removed and BG has also added notices saying that the windows should not be opened. It was felt that the repairs would be too costly at the present time as the windows will be completely refurbished as part of the renovation project. The combination of the sliders and the warning notices will prevent accidents in the intervening period.

BG had also received a quotes for the following:-

£1,700 to repair the path to the left of the side door.

£500 to replace the damaged ceiling tiles

£15 - £20 per hour for general handy man work.

Other work that is required includes clearing gutters, fixing the ceiling/roof in the corridor, replacing a fence post etc. BG suggested carrying out a risk assessment to focus on what needs doing first. KJ, BG and LE will carry out a building inspection. A programme of smaller works could then be started using an hourly paid handy man.

KJ/BG/LE

CF has obtained a quote for painting the main Hall from Duncan Mann from Uppingham. He quoted £2,500 including materials for painting all walls and white woodwork and straightening the ceiling tiles. The paint would be a similar colour to the current one. It could be done in the week beginning 22nd October. It was agreed that this is a competitive quote -previous indications had been much higher and CF was asked to accept the quote on behalf of the Committee.

DT was asked if he could put out an email appeal for donations to see if funds could be raised for the redecorating work.

DT

Addendum

Tom Price asked in PQT if something could be done about the walls in the small Hall which are in a very poor state due to rising damp. KJ has a possible solution and will ask the decorators for a quote to board and paint that room whilst on site.

As caretaker, MG also pointed out that the glass on top of the cooker has been cracked and if a pan boiled over it could leak into the elements. DT was asked to put an email out to the Village asking if anyone was replacing a cooker and had a working old one would they donate it. In the meantime, a notice will be put on the old cooker warning of the danger.

DT

MG advised she had asked Preschool to remove their rubbish at the end of their Thursday

session. Scouts will be asked to remove theirs too.

4.5 Bookings

BB reported that bookings continue at a steady pace.

Scouts have asked for a second night – Tuesday - and BB asked what rate we could offer. After much discussion the Committee by majority agreed that the second night should be charged at the session rate of £25.00. BB stated that he thought this charge was excessive. However, although the booking is for early evening, it will prohibit using the Hall for any other purpose. Scouts also tend to leave the hall in an untidy state which will impact upon Preschool on Wednesdays. It was agreed the position could be reviewed in three months time.

BB also reported that a letter of complaint had been sent to the Parish Council concerning the wedding of Mr & Mrs Joseph Powell on Saturday 17th September. Despite booking the Hall from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning, marquees were being erected on Thursday and clearing up went well into Sunday afternoon. Furthermore, the terms and conditions included in the bookings form were not adhered to. Loud music and raucous behaviour continued until the early morning. BB went to the Hall around midnight to ask for consideration to the given neighbours and was verbally abused and intimidated by the wedding guests. This behaviour is clearly unacceptable and on behalf of the Committee KJ thanked BB for his attempts to deal with the situation and apologised that he had been put in such a difficult position.

KJ and CF will draft replies to the complainant and the PC.

There was a discussion as to how best to avoid this type of occurrence in the future. The booking conditions were amended after similar complaints several years ago and it is felt that they are robust and appropriate. What is difficult to deal with are those who choose to ignore them completely. It is difficult to police such events and no member of the Committee should have to deal with the treatment meted out to BB.

A limit of 4 weddings per year was imposed following the last complaints to minimise disruption to neighbouring houses as far as possible. A restriction on the noise levels was also included. Since the changes no complaint has been received following a wedding booking.

It was agreed that the Committee did not want to ban the use of the Hall for weddings as many local families appreciate the availability of such a venue. In fact, Mr Powell was born and brought up in Medbourne.

KJ suggested increasing the charge made for wedding hire and charging a 100% deposit that will not be returned if booking conditions are not adhered to. It was agreed that a significant financial incentive could be the only control that would have an effect.

KJ/CF will review the booking conditions and ensure the new terms are included.

4.6 Defibrillator

MG confirmed that the defibrillator has been checked monthly since June. The secondary battery has been replaced and new pads have been bought.

5 Forthcoming Events

The lighting of a beacon/bonfire to commemorate the anniversary of the end of WW1 is to be held on 11 November with an exhibition and afternoon tea in the Village Hall.

It was agreed that a Meet the Neighbours evening would be held on 21 November 2018. CF

will draft an advert for the Parish Magazine.

9 Any Other Business

KJ had been asked by the Parish Council if the Village Hall mower could be used by the wider village for other grassed areas. DT advised that the mower was not suitable to be moved around the village on the pavements. In addition, in view of the costs of maintenance and upkeep and the risks of damage it was felt that the Village Hall mower should be retained for the Hall grounds only. If the PC wish to acquire a separate mower there is secure storage space at the rear of the Hall that can be provided. KJ will advise the PC accordingly.

KJ

BG has been putting out the Village Hall bins but is away in early October. Rebekah Budenberg agreed to take them out for the two weeks prior to half term.

RB

BG mentioned that Great Easton Village Hall had advertised for willing hands to assist with gardening in public areas and suggest that we could do the same perhaps by DT's email.

BG is to implement a suggestion box for feedback from users.

BG

Despite frequent watering the Christmas tree looks unhealthy due to the extreme summer heat. It will continue to be monitored.

LE asked if there was any spare storage space in the hall for documents. KJ advised that there is a loft space above the side corridor accessed through the Preschool storage cupboard. The space is dry and weather proof.

10 Public Question Time

RB requested permission to take home the model of the Hall for safe keeping. The Committee agreed.

TP asked how the sales of Mick Cooper's booklet were going. There have been about 30 known sales so far – the Sports Club have sold some, but information is awaited.

11 Date of Next Meeting

Next Meeting Date 8 October 2018 at 7:30pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:50pm