



Minutes of Meeting Held on 15th February 2023

Present:

Committee

Brian Godfrey – Chairman
 Carolyn Frostwick – Treasurer
 Jenny Sandars – Bookings Clerk
 Chloe Shuttlewood – Secretary
 Lynn Easton – Medbourne Parish Council
 Kelle Garner

Members of the Public

Meriel Godfrey, Rebekah Budenberg, Catherine Hedgecott, Tom Price

			Action
1		Apologies for Absence: Karin Goodburn	
2		Minutes of Previous Meeting The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 th January 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.	
3		Matters arising from the Minutes	
	3.1	We are still waiting to hear back from the Integrated Care Board regarding the Medical Practice contract.	
	3.2	The advert for the vacant position of VH Committee Treasurer will feature again in the March edition of the Parish Magazine. Advertisements are also up on the notice boards of the village shop and the Village Hall.	
	3.3	The bookings calendar has been blocked out for the dates in July when the work on the windows will be taking place.	
	3.4	Promoting the hall for hire – the wording for the small advert has been agreed. CS has sent the designed advert to Maria at the Parish Magazine and has asked for it to be put into the next four editions (£6 per issue).	CS
	3.5	Policy updates – CS to send collated amends to BG to approve before updating the documents and uploading to the VH website.	CS
	3.6	Alcohol licence – CF to laminate the hard copy and put up in the hall, and also email a copy to all Committee members for reference.	CF

4	<p>Chairman's Report (including governance issues)</p> <p><u>MP visit</u> – Alicia Kearns visited the Village Hall last month, and said that she is going to write a letter of support for the application/second stage of the Platinum Jubilee Fund.</p> <p><u>Village Halls week</u> – MG very kindly made a beautiful cake in the shape of the Village Hall to celebrate the occasion. There was great publicity with a photograph and article in the Harborough Mail.</p> <p><u>Gigaclear broadband</u> – Gigaclear have very kindly renewed the VH contract for free wifi, serving as a Community Hub. They will also be upgrading the VH to the fastest broadband available. The Gigaclear logo is now on the VH website. Gigaclear may ask to use the VH for promotional events up to four times per year (with prior agreement).</p> <p><u>Review of hire charges</u> – energy costs have increased and it is important that the VH is able to cover its costs. It has been agreed that rates will increase for users of the Village Hall with effect from 1st April 2023. The new rates are as follows:</p> <p>Medbourne Residents:</p> <p>One-off session (up to 4 hours) £40 Two sessions (up to 8 hours) £80 Full day (more than 8 hours) £110 Multiple sessions – 6 weeks or more (4 hours) £35 Weddings/large parties £700</p> <p>Non Medbourne Residents:</p> <p>One off session (up to 4 hours) £50 Two sessions (up to 8 hours) £100 Full day (more than 8 hours) £140 Multiple sessions – 6 weeks or more (4 hours) £40 Weddings/large parties £850</p> <p>Price increases for the Scouts and Pre-school will not happen until the new academic year. CF will write to inform them of these changes with plenty of notice.</p>	CF
5	<p>Treasurer's Report (including Restoration Fund/Appeal)</p> <p>Update from CF: With a month and a half of the financial year to go we have a surplus to date of £4,347. Invoices will be issued to the Pre-school and Scouts before the end of the year. The energy broker we have used for several years recently contacted us to advise that our current supplier is not renewing gas contracts when ours comes to an end in June 2023. Our</p>	

		<p>current contract is 21p per day standing charge and 3.33p per KWH. The energy broker has advised as follows: The Opus variable rate is £2 – £6 per day standing charge and 19p per KWH. The best deal available is with British Gas Lite – 45p per day standing charge and 10.24p per KWH on a three year contract. The last bill shows our average gas usage to be 47,800 KWH per annum – so based on the British Gas prices there would be an increase from around £1,500 to almost £5,000pa (unless we can reduce usage). The broker rang partly because of the withdrawal of Opus from the gas market and partly because there has been a recent dip in gas prices so these are very competitive (before Christmas the prices were 12-15p per KWH). The only better offer is with Scottish Power but we would have to move the electricity to them too and we are only six months into a 3-year contract so there would be a hefty penalty attached and the saving is less than 1p per KWH. The broker advised that the ongoing war in Ukraine and the current global economic position will affect prices for many months, possibly years, and prices are unlikely to go back to what we were paying previously. We will now have certainty for three years and must give attention to reducing usage wherever possible. With the offer time-sensitive CF accepted the above terms with British Gas Lite. (There is a standard two week cooling off period for online distance selling.)</p> <p>CF raised the query raised over the date of the premises licence and it has been confirmed by email that the date of the licence is correct. It has been backdated to 1st December 2021 in line with our original application. As the issue of the licence was so long delayed, we are not expected to pay the annual renewal fee which would normally be due in December 2022. We will receive an invoice for the renewal by 1st December 2023.</p> <p>Village Hall accounts have been audited – with thanks to CF.</p> <p>Restoration Fund Following BG’s submission of an application for a stage one grant application to the Platinum Jubilee Fund we have reached stage two and work is beginning on the next stage of the application. Our application to the National Lottery Community Fund was successful and we were awarded £8,800 towards the cost of replacing the secondary double glazing in the main hall once the windows have been refurbished.</p>	
6		<p>Caretaking/Maintenance/Defibrillator</p> <p>During the spell of cold weather, MG checked the Village Hall daily to ensure there were no frozen pipes etc.</p>	

		<p>The boiler and hot water system were serviced, with no issues.</p> <p>The leak in the front porch will cost £900 to fix. The problem could get worse if no action is taken. MG will ask whether a guarantee can be given regarding how long the repair should last for.</p> <p>The Platinum Jubilee tree has been planted. This is a silver birch. The plaque will arrive shortly. Many thanks to the Parish Council.</p> <p>The defibrillator is fine and the new pads have been installed.</p>	MG
7		<p>Bookings</p> <p>The Terms & Conditions will be amended to reflect the new cancellation policy.</p>	BG
8		<p>Forthcoming Events</p> <p>The Events Planning team have met to discuss organising a family-friendly event at Easter. A second meeting will be organised.</p>	MG, KG, CS, Kelle G
9		<p>Any Other Business</p> <p><u>Afternoon teas</u> – RB banked an additional £104 on 30.01.23 which was transferred to the VH bank account. The total now banked is £244 up to end of January. Attendance is really good – max 20, average 12. The rota of volunteers is almost full until the end of April. There has been very good feedback from users. Many thanks to RB and team.</p> <p><u>Timber windows in the small hall</u> – as previously raised, the sills on the outside need to be repaired. Although this is not urgent, it does need to be done. BG queried whether there may be funds available for this work. CF to investigate.</p>	CF
10		<p>Public Question Time</p> <p>None.</p>	
11		<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>15th March at 19:00.</p> <p>This year's AGM will be held in April.</p>	

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:45.