

COLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY 2024

Members attending: John Macmillan, Richard Monbiot, Guy Reynolds, Fiona O'Brien, Nigel Parry, and Lynne Richardson. Invited guest - Peter Knowles.

1. There were no apologies.
2. There were no conflicts of interest.
3. Minutes of the September meeting were approved.
 - 3.1 Facia and Sofit replacement completed, extra piece is being sourced by contractor to seal join in front apex.
 - 3.2 **RM** to investigate if any grants are available for solar panels from Balfour Beatty.

4. Treasurer's Report

GR produced a report which appeared to indicate a small loss for the year. He said that If you were to look at the profit and loss of the current financial year in isolation with no context, then it does not make good reading, but with a little context the picture is different. He had done a very simple comparison year on year to the end of January. The significant point is that bookings are very similar year on year. However, utilities (gas and electric) have increased by 67%. A new electricity supply contract was signed at the end of 2023 which will have a significant downward effect on utilities costs. He added that there were no more extraordinary expenses envisaged at the moment and we have not yet fully seen the benefits of the increase in fees from Feb 23 yet, as this was only applied to future bookings. It was agreed the trustees should reassess the situation at the financial year end (March) including the possibility of further price increase.

5. Booking Officer's report

Figures are healthy although always room for improvement. At least 15 of the 18 enquiries received since the last meeting were converted into bookings with two still outstanding. The total value of bookings over the corresponding 12 month period was down slightly.

Village Summer Weekend 22/23 June 2024. The hall was not required now for the Sunday. **JM** said he was a little concerned that the Parish Council had just assume that the hall would be made available free of charge. While we were happy for Parish Council to have it for free for the Saturday on this occasion, we could guarantee that this would always be the case, particularly if our finances were not in good order.

6. Managing our Finances

6.1 Savings accounts and contingency reserves

JM suggested opening an account for the reserved funds so they accumulate interest. It was agreed to lump available accounts together to have £3000.00 in current account with £10,000.00 in an interest bearing reserve.

6.2 Playground maintenance costs and the PC. Need to ask Parish Council to reimburse Village Hall. **GR** to look through records for the last three years and request reimbursement for amounts paid out. Everyone agreed that the playground is very well maintained by **PK**.

6.3 We might have to review rates again at our April meeting, we need to generate at least £1200/month to increase reserved capital. **GR** to list assets and compile schedule of repairs/replacements.

7. Caravan Clubs.

The trustees would not be promoting the Village Hall as a caravan venue. Fees for caravaners to be increased to cover the cost of repairs to the field.

8. Maintenance items:

8.1 New isolator switch for Bellamour Room boiler, **JM** to ask Sam's Electrical to quote, and to quote for sensor light by key box, replacement lighting in the Bellamour Room and proximity switch for ladies toilets in the main hall.

8.2 Bellamour Room and entrance lobby carpets. Carpets in both need cleaning/replacing. Agreed to replace entrance hall carpet **RM** to ask Craig carpets to quote. **FO'B** will bring carpet cleaner in and will talk to Delphina.

8.3 Redecoration. 23/24 March suggested for painting party, **PK** to contact Steve Joesbury to ask if he could assist as previously.

9. A.O.B.

9.1 **PK** reported that the big green shed was in urgent need of repairs or total replacement. He had produced a rough catalogue of what is stored in there. Some items can probably be disposed of. Working party to be arranged to look at items stored and remove those no longer required. Once completed we can decide whether to repair or replace and if replace on the size of shed needed.

10. Date of next meeting

11th April 2024 7.30pm.

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Signed as a true record

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Dated