

## COLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 25 May 2017  
at 7.30

**Present** Richard Monbiot (Chair) (RM)  
Marie Havelock (MH)  
Polly Macmillan (PM)

**In attendance** - Ann Nunn (AN) Ben Ridgway

**Apologies** received from Ian Jones (IJ), John Macmillan, Odette Ghent (OG), Alan Freeman

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 27 April were approved and signed for filing. AN agreed to forward a copy to Duncan Shortland so that they could be published on the website.

### **Playground Group**

Ben Ridgway was attending the meeting to give the Committee a report on progress made to replace the existing playground. A decision on the possible design of the new playground had been made and costs for the construction were now known. They had chosen a design which they felt was good value for money as well as being at a reasonable price - £48000 plus VAT. The design catered for younger children, and no fence would surround the playground equipment although PM queried this as there would be no means of preventing dog fouling. RM did not think there would be a problem but, if necessary, a fence could be considered later. Funds so far raised were in the region of £1500, and the target sum to be raised by Parish activities needed to attract match funding was £20,000. A request was to be made for the PC for a generous donation of funds towards the target of £20,000 and also obtain confirmation that the PC would pay the costs of maintenance and insurance as in the past. The Playground Group is planning to give a presentation to the PC. It had also been suggested that local companies and residents should be approached with a view to them sponsoring individual pieces of equipment.

A second phase was planned for an amenity area to provide activities for older children and adults. This would be far less expensive and would be sited on the ground where badgers are known to be.

RM explained that he had had two meetings with the Badger Trust to establish how the badgers could be legally removed with full consent of English Nature. A site survey showed that there were four active entrances on the soil bank and one on the field. However 32 entrances had been found to the main badger sett which was confirmed to be on Peggy Peet's land. As a result there was no regulatory barrier to prevent removal of the bank and the badgers pushed off provided that work was carried out by an approved contractor between June and November. A licence would be needed from English Nature, which would be a formality, and it would take approximately 3 months to remove the badgers from start to finish of the process. Cost would be in the region of £4000 to include the removal of the soil, and monitoring the site, money that was unlikely to be available this financial year, so RM suggested the problem be tackled in 12 months' time. PM queried if the badger problem would become worse with the badgers becoming more established in that 12 month period bearing in mind the damage that is already being caused on the football pitch. RM thought not but in any event the remedy would remain the same.

As for the construction of the new playground, Ben was hopeful that funding would not take too long to accumulate, and he hoped work would start in 12 months time although good weather was needed to allow heavy vehicles to come onto the field to limit potential damage. Ben Ridgeway then left the meeting.

MH felt it essential to get the PC on board. RM confirmed he would be writing a letter to the PC requesting that they contribute towards the funding of the playground, he agreed to sign such a letter as Chair of the Playground Group, not as Chair of the VHMC. The view was expressed by both MH and PM that the VHMC should not be directly involved in the planning, design and/or funding of the new playground. RM declined for the letter to the PC to be drafted by him and signed by someone other than himself from the Playground Group.

### **Matters Arising**

A Playground meeting had recently taken place in the Bellamour Room at the same time as M3 were using the main hall. RM was pleased to report that the soundproofing appeared to be effective and there was no reason for a new door to be installed.

A quote of £60 for cleaning of the inside and outside windows, including the cills, by Alpha Clean every two months was accepted. MH would let the firm know and AN agreed to check when the hall would be empty for the indoor windows to be cleaned. All bills for payment should be forwarded to OG.

Kerry had priced up the stainless steel cutlery that was needed - £200. It was agreed this should be bought.

### **Chair's Report including Treasurer's Report**

RM gave an apology for the absence of OG who was stuck in traffic and unlikely to make the meeting. The audited accounts were not yet ready and AN reminded the Committee that these were needed to send out to those who had requested them prior to the AGM. As soon as the audited accounts were approved by the Committee, then AN would be advised.

The quote of £12000 RM obtained for the resurfacing of the car park carried a 10 year guarantee but the work would have to be delayed for the time being until sufficient dedicated funds were held in the reserve. The front of the building needed to be redecorated, and it was agreed contractors should be asked to give quotes bearing in mind the work was urgent and no volunteer had come forward.

AN was requested to send letters of thanks from the Committee to Bill Douthwaite and Kate Staples for their hard work in organizing the extremely successful Murder Mystery which had grossed £1026, net £910.

IJ had cleared the guttering but the light in the main hall still needed to be repaired.

As for the padlock problems it was decided to leave the barrier unlocked for the time being.

### **Village Hall Loft**

RM explained that the loft needed a good sort out so that more space could be created. AN suggested that village organisations be asked to help, in return for which they could be allocated an area of the loft to store their documents and mementoes provided they were contained in plastic boxes. A date of 4 July was

agreed, 2.30pm. AN confirmed she would write to Village Organisations advising them of the date.

### **Secretary's Report**

AN mentioned that, although she had advised Lichfield Council of the change of name of the licence holder and the fee had been paid, the relevant documents would not be issued until both parts A and B had been returned. Unfortunately, one of these was with the auditor and would not be available until he returned from holiday. The Notices regarding the AGM had been placed on the Notice Board. She had not received any enquiries regarding the position of Secretary which, of course, would be vacant following the AGM.

### **Bookings**

AN reported that no new bookings had come through for a few weeks, in fact one request had been made to her as Kerry had not returned calls. Apparently, there was a problem with the mobile signal now that Kerry had moved to Rangemore, and RM confirmed he would make enquiry of Kerry.

### **Nature Reserve**

PM was pleased to confirm that the Notice Boards were up and looked really good and the two benches, one for each of the parents of the Peet family, were now installed. A really lovely place to sit and take in the view. The children of the School were very interested in the Bug Hotel which was now installed, and looking gorgeous. A Notice would be put up confirming the Hotel had been made by the children. John was making arrangements for the Grand Opening - a date to be announced.

### **Fund Raising**

RM felt the Auction should go ahead and a date of 21 October was confirmed. Queries were raised by both PM and MH as to which members of the Committee would be able to help out, and would there be sufficient volunteers to make it viable. RM felt that it should go ahead but there was an urgent need to improve the marketing of the event, and the Committee should use every endeavour to encourage volunteers to come forward. RM to approach Margaret Carter now that she has resigned from the Neighbourhood Plan. The arrangements for the Summer Fair and "From Here to Absurdity" were well in hand. The issue of the Xmas Fayre was raised.

### **AGM**

It was agreed the format of the AGM should be the same as the previous year, with refreshments served. The Playground Group should also be asked to give a presentation.

### **Next Meeting**

AGM on 29 June.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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Date .....