

COLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday, 22
September 2016 at 7.30

Present

Richard Monbiot (Chair)
Ron Lawrence
Marie Havelock
Polly Macmillan
Tony Winter
Kerry Ball
Shirley Barnett

Apologies - Ian Jones, Alan Freeman, John Macmillan and Pete Jones
In attendance - Ann Nunn and Jim Carter

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25 August were approved and signed for filing. Ann agreed to forward a copy to Duncan so that they could be published on the website.

Matters Arising

Marie was pleased to report that Laura Crompton had come forward to prepare the Parish Magazine in the same format as currently produced. New software was needed and this was to be discussed by the Parish Council, Lands Trust and PCC.

Chair's Report

Richard mentioned that Paul Waring's father had died, and his suggestion that Ann send an appropriate card from the VHMC was unanimously agreed.

Although a gardening party was supposed to meet at the Village Hall on the afternoon of the Committee meeting, sadly the last three months only Marjorie and himself had attended on a regular basis. More help was needed and he was unsure of the best way forward. It was agreed that a request should be put in the Magazine asking those who could spare a few hours every now and then to help keep the garden tidy to let the Committee know and, when work was needed to be done, Richard would send out e-mails advising of the proposed time and date. It was hoped this might be more beneficial than gardening on the same time and day each month.

There was still some work to be done on the playground. Jim Carter mentioned that he was struggling to get hold of the correct size of wood for replacement of the monkey bars, and, with the inspection coming up, the work needed to be done fairly soon. Richard agreed to ask Keith Williscroft if he knew from where the wood could be obtained.

The Village Hall floor had been polished by Ann Martin and Kerry, work which had needed to be done and they were both thanked for their hard work which had made such a difference.

Thanks were due to Brian Maltby, Alan Freeman and Tony Winter for finishing the painting, and to Keith Williscroft who had made available the scaffolding tower. The dado rail was still to be fitted.

For the Christmas Fayre, 11 stalls had been booked, and Marie confirmed she would be donating and serving the turkey baps as she had done in previous years. 9 volunteers to help with the event had also come forward so far and Father Christmas would be making an appearance.

The recent use of the new sound system was unsatisfactory, simply because the settings made by Duncan had been moved. Richard, Kerry and Majorie had now been shown how to use the system so all should be well. The disco lights were past their sell by date, having been in use for very many years. Eight were needed, and the cost of replacement varied between £30 and £80. It was decided to go ahead and source some. Having WIFI available for users of the Hall could mean more bookings. If WIFI were available, then remote surveillance cameras could also be installed. As the Lands Trust had now given £1000 towards the costs of the car park re-surfacing, it was agreed that quotes should be obtained with a request to Duncan that he obtain these. Polly agreed to liaise with Duncan and Ann confirmed she would send a thank you letter to the Lands Trust.

Richard reported that Ian had bought the controls needed to help reduce heating and lighting charges and Ian would fit these as soon as he could.

Richard unveiled a lovely painting that had been donated following the recent booking of the Village Hall by the Art Group organized by Andrew and Gloria Marshall. The painting depicted the Village Hall and it was unanimously agreed a note of thanks would be sent by Ann from all the VHMC. Unfortunately, the only name of the artist Richard had was Don, so the note would be sent for Andrew & Gloria Marshall to forward on to him. The picture would be hung in the Bellamour Room.

Treasurer's Report

Ron reported that he found himself in the unusual position of having money in hand, about £17000. He explained that for years annual hall hire debt had generally been £1000, hirers now pay in advance rather than in arrear and deposits were being collected at the time of booking. There were advance payments of £5400 and £1200 for the current year and 2017/18 respectively. Further, a grant of £1000 from the Council had been made, and there had been no major maintenance expenditure. So, even after deducting the advance payments from the balance in hand, there was still approximately £10,000 and, after taking account of our reserve policy, there was still £6000 available if anything was needed. After a brief discussion, it was decided to make enquiry of the cost of a stage, something Ann and Polly were certain a lot of parishioners would welcome as would Village Organisations. Ron agreed to get details of the cost so that the matter could be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed that no decision to buy or not to buy a stage would be made until after a discussion and vote at a Committee meeting.

Secretary's Report

It would seem the arrangements for the Auction were now finalized, with John, (hopefully Ken Rider) and Keith collecting the stage from the School on Friday. There might be a problem in returning the stage on 30th September as Keith could be on holiday. Tony confirmed the advert had gone in the paper and Kerry reported that there had been more than 2000 hits on Facebook. Richard suggested making enquiry of visitors to the Auction as to where they had seen the advert for the Auction.

A letter from the Community Council of Staffordshire had been received confirming the date of the AGM to be 6 October. As that was the same night as

the Garden Guild Harvest Supper with many of the Committee attending, it was suggested that Ian be asked.

Bookings Report

Ann asked everyone to ensure all bookings and/or cancellations were made by e-mail rather than mentioned in conversations. She also queried the request for bookings by the Neighbourhood Plan Group. She had been requested to invoice the Council (at the rate for which Village Organisations qualified) but no such confirmation had been received from the Council. Jim Carter agreed to ensure that request was made as soon as possible.

Polly gave a report on the September Show which had not been well supported either in entries and/or visitors. It was likely that the Show planned for 2017 would not go ahead but a decision would be made following meetings by WI and GG members.

Working Groups

EASC - It was planned to remove the grass at the weekend, but Richard stressed the tractor could not access the site whilst the Auction was taking place. Diane Hughes (Peggy Peat's daughter) had offered to buy a bench which would free up money for the Interpretation Board. Mark Bull is going to fence the Nature Reserve once the hay has been removed so that sheep can graze.

Ways and Means - The monkey bars on the playground still need to be replaced, but, as previously mentioned, finding the wood was proving to be a problem. The toilet lock needs to be replaced, and it was decided to change the code regularly.

Induction of New Members of the Committee

Still to be done.

Village Organisations

Richard would ask Mark Bull if he could help with the return of the stage if the School needed it returned on 30 September. Ann would enquire if the School would agree to it being returned on 3 October when Keith Williscroft would be available.

Any Other Business

Richard confirmed the meeting on 19 October when hopefully a decision would be made to replace the playground and a Working Group would be formed.

Marie confirmed that there would be a Festival of Trees again in the Church, probably early December.

Tony expressed his disgust at the type of litter being placed in the bins around the playground and felt he could no longer continue to empty these unless the situation improved. The notices regarding the type of rubbish not to be placed in the bins were in need of replacing and Richard agreed to ask Ann Shortland to prepare some more.

Dates for the next two Auctions in March and September were agreed - 10th and 11th March, and 22nd and 23rd September.

Next Meeting

Thursday 27 October.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

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Date