

MINUTES OF HOTHFIELD VILLAGE HALL
COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY 6TH JUNE 2011

1. Present: Tina Marden (Chairman), Anita Bramfitt, Paula Chapman, John Collins, Sharon (Booking Clerk), Rose Harris, Shirley Horn, Peter Howard, John Nicholls, Graham Parker (Secretary) Kay Pender (Vice Chairman)

2. Absent/Apologies: Peter Patten
In attendance Chris Rogers, Bob Rivers

Meeting commences with the Village Hall Lottery Draw conducted Peter Patten

3. Minutes: The minutes of the 3rd May amended at the request of Graham in respect of the donation from Burt who gave £20 not £50 and addition of the contribution from Bluebells which was £50 and was omitted from the minutes. Apologies too for putting Anita's name incorrectly.

4. Matters Arising

Graham tells the meeting that he and Kenny will do the CCTV cameras when have an opportunity only indoor ones that still need attention.

Plumber not been in touch, Chris explains that as far as he is concerned the plumber had been told he should do the work discussed at the last meeting of replacing the pipes but he had not done so and the pipes are still leaking. Tina to make contact with him again.

Matters arising from items in the AGM. Question asked as to the number of members on the Committee and why there is not more. Chris pointed out that at the AGM in May 2010 it was agreed there would be 11-13 on the Committee to go beyond 13 then need to have more appointed members

John Nicholls queries his position on the Committee because he has been told that as a member appointed to the Committee, an appointed Trustee, he is not able to have a say on the Committee or sign cheques. Chris stated this was not the case and he is in the same position as elected members and further it was clarified that the Custodian Trustee Peter Howard also has the same powers.

There then followed a discussion about a cheque that John Nicholls had signed to return a deposit at the request of Tina and it was for £175.00. Sharon confirmed that with respect to that particular booking the deposit to be returned should have been £150 and Tina confirmed that she would speak to the person concerned. Further discussion occurred with involvement from the public present as to the length of time it takes for the return of a deposit and why it cannot be made in cash.

5. Chairman's Report.

Tina explains that she was not happy with how keys are made available and how bookings went while Sharon was on holiday, feeling that the Hall lost three bookings. Agreed that when Sharon is away the diary will be left with Tina.

At this point Bob is invited to make his requests on behalf of the History Society. Graham suggests that the space needed is available in the room behind the stage which would avoid the need for work on the boiler. Some concern expressed about how difficult it would be to put the heavy cabinet in the room having to lift it over the stage. The Archivist now says that all that is needed to protect the papers is fitting a tight lid to the tank. Bob will make the grant application accordingly. Also requested was a glass cabinet two foot square, agreed and Bob asks that Tina write to him confirming this so he can send it with the Society's bid.

Chris tells the meeting that there are about 30 children who did not receive mugs from the Royal Wedding celebrations and it was decided to order 36 which is a cheaper way to order.

Helpers for the Fete, Graham will make sure there is something in the newsletter.

Tina suggests that the old stumps of the fir trees be covered in some way by a 'box' container that can then be planted. Agreed that it is a good idea to cover them with something that is then planted up. Tina is getting some boxes priced but also suggested are beer barrels

Electricity inspection has been done and certificate is with Peter Patten for display, no need now to copy it to ABC but they will conduct spot checks. Electrician also seen to lights which have been a problem.

Public Interval:

Concern raised by those present about the problems with smoking when hiring the Hall, the laws about smoking have to be complied with and it was accepted by the Committee that a smoking shelter is needed but buying one is too expensive and the charitable organisations will not pay for anything to do with smoking. Any help from the people of the village would be very welcome in building a shelter. The Committee has to ensure that the Hall runs in accordance with the rules and regulations.

The residents present raise concern that a lot of complaints that are made in relation to the running of the Hall come from a few villagers who are not prepared to attend the meetings and raise them in person but their complaints affect the enjoyment of the Hall for those that use it. Concern that the Hall will not be booked with all the pressure on how it is used.

It was felt unreasonable by the residents present that the hiring of the Hall must end by 11.45 and everyone left by midnight, for special events like weddings this was not long enough and

not enough time to clear up. The Committee indicated that a lot of the restrictions have been since the strong feeling and complaints in 2010 about parties at the Hall and the disturbance and damage caused there being a danger the Hall would close. Discussion about extensions and that applications should be made to Ashford Borough Council.

The Committee will discuss these items further at the next meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Statement of accounts circulated by Chris Rogers on behalf of Peter Patten. Invoice not yet sent to Bowls which will include insurance premium. John Collins had raised the fact that they will not receive a 10% discount for paying for the whole year. The finances of the club are poor with the reduction in the numbers attending the Bowls and the club is losing money and John Collins is concerned that the club may have to disband after 23 years. Discussion about other clubs also facing problems and suggestions about how the Bowls Club might attract new members even though previous attempts have not been successful. Also ways to boost funds perhaps a jumble sale in aid of the Bowls Club.

Discussion about raffle tickets for the fete. If sold in advance then a licence is needed, same one for lottery. Renewal of the licence is £20 and if paid by the Lottery then just reduces the amount that is paid to the Hall it does not affect the winnings. Chris will email Sheila Flynn and ask for 2000 tickets which is more cost effective than a 1000. Need a 1st prize to put on the ticket. In relation to prizes Graham has sent letters but not had as good as response as last year.

7. Booking Clerk

Sharon confirms Rugby Tots starting and they had asked to pay by BACs she had asked for a cheque this time, Chris confirmed payment by BACs is acceptable and he would email the details to her and copy them to Peter Patten.

Harvest Supper is in the diary for the 01.10.11, Sue had requested a Saturday rather than a Friday this year. An 18th birthday has been booked for the 29.10.11.

Sharon had received a complaint that there had not been an announcement that the Boot Fair had been cancelled and some cars did arrive at the Hall gates. Up to a week before the event there had been no bookings.

Following discussion it was agreed a Quiz Night would be organised for the 12.11.11 and Peter Howard offered to prepare the questions with Paul Eckersley and it would be with a chilli and ploughmans.

Hothfield's Got Talent event suggested by Peter Howard and agreed this to be staged on the 04.02.12 and Graham will organise a notice for the shop inviting entrants.

St George's Day, Kay suggests that there should be an event put on next year and following discussion a date was agreed of the 23rd April 2012 and the food suggested was beef casserole, apple pie and custard. It was noted that it is the Jubilee next year aswell.

Confirmed that the Red Arrows will fly past on the Fete day if they are flying.

Anita Bramfitt told the Committee that she had attended the Hamstreet Country Fair and gave her thoughts on the event and the stalls that were there.

Agreed coming events in the Hall should be displayed in one of the display boards.

Sharon tells the Committee that an enquiry had been received from a Dorset bike club who will be staying at the Holiday Inn but wanted to use the Hall for a BBQ and with agreement will use the Hall BBQ equipment. There will be no music or bar just them and the food and drink. They had found out about the Hall from the website.

Fete fairly well organised but will need some meetings before it happens meeting. Peter Howard explains he no longer has the trailer used for the disco and John Collins is asked to try and get one.

8. Fund Raising

Dealt with under Booking Clerk.

9. Any Other Business

Members to be co-opted to the Committee. Vera Parker is nominated and seconded by John Collins and Vera joins the Committee and meeting. It was hoped to co-opt a second person Gavin Deeley however he was not present.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m. and the next meeting of the Committee will be on Monday 4th July 2011 at the Children's Centre at 7.00 p.m.