

North Wootton Village Hall Committee
Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday 23rd August 2017 at 19:00

Present: Lesley Cohen - Chair, Andrew Lamb - Treasurer, Antony Lamb - Bookings Clerk, Dennis Blackmore - Secretary, Doreen Taylor, Jennifer Berridge, Barry Watkins, Sarah Simmonds, Neil Pearce.

Apologies: Colin Smith, Wendy Border.

1. The issue of long standing members of the 'previous' Village Hall Committee was discussed. It was the decision of the First General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee held on 16th August that they be replaced by new incumbents. This message having been conveyed to them, both were unhappy, one with the decision and one with the manner in which it was made and conveyed. Lesley confirmed that both would soon receive official letters from the Parish Council and also letters from this committee thanking them for their service. Additionally Lesley plans to visit one in person.
2. Fire Certificate for the Hall received, valid through to the end of August 2018
3. Currently the only two groups who rent the hall regularly are Weight Watchers and Slimming World. There was some discussion regarding how Weight Watchers make payment; to be investigated by Andrew when he has access to the accounts.
4. Regarding the refurbishment project, we gave ourselves a target of completion by Spring 2018.
5. We remembered to bear in mind that the refurbishment could disrupt existing renters.
6. Lesley reported on her investigations into grants including Grantscape, The National Lottery, Comic Relief & WREN. Lesley is planning to spend time with Rachel Curtis to go through applications.
7. We agreed that Heating and combined air conditioning are a top priority allied to 'lowering' the ceiling (while retaining its profile), the aim being to incorporate improved insulation. We discussed the possibility of adding solar panels and whether there might be grants for insulation and solar panels.
8. The next priority is to improve the lavatories.
9. Sarah agreed to get a quote from a builder and Jennifer said she could contact a plumber. We also considered the possibility of contacting the local college for painting and decorating 'practice'. Bircham Newton was also mentioned as possible source of building labour.
10. Lesley said that she thought she could have the charity MIND manufacture an exterior notice board.
11. We agreed that we should cut back the surrounding conifers on the perimeter of the hall. Lesley to get a quote from Pete Bulmer and Dennis to contact Roger Reed.
12. We thought it worth contacting Councillor Lord Howard to see if he could help/support us in any way: Dennis to write a letter.

13. While inspecting the premises Antony suggested we should consider moving the kitchen to the right freeing up the space to create meeting rooms.

14. We even discussed a Christmas Fayre.

15. Forthcoming event: Macmillan Coffee Morning (pioneered by Lesley) on Friday 29th September. We discussed the best ways to get publicity and where to place posters and post leaflets. The intention is to get local people into the hall, to generate interest in the renovation, canvass opinion and maybe find volunteers. Should we include a plant stall? Raffle? Tombola? Antony volunteered to supply the teas.

16. No next meeting was agreed, however we have arranged to meet at the hall on Wednesday 27th starting at 14:00 to 'deep clean' the hall prior to the Coffee Morning.

17. The meeting closed at 20:00 (followed by a general inspection of the hall and exterior).

DBB25/08/17