

## North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee

Meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022- 19:20

**Apologies:** Kerry Taylor

**Attendees:** Dennis Bishop (Chairman) Neil Pearce (Secretary) Wendy Border (Treasurer/Bookings) Antony Lamb (Events) Bob Angell (Maintenance) Fiona Rippon, Doreen Taylor, Colin Smith, Will Border, Jason Harper, Bridget Nurse, Sarah Simmonds.

- 1 Approval of minutes by Dennis of the previous meeting held on the 14/07/22

### 2 Matters Arising

Dennis (Chairman) welcomed our new member Fiona Rippon to the committee.

Bob was looking into whether it was feasible for the VH to have solar panels fitted on the roof to help with ever increasing energy costs. However, it turns out because of the nature of our roof, which is made of cedar shingles, this is not possible due to the possibility of leakage.

The grant which we applied for to help with the costs of the new porch has been approved. Bob explained we are awaiting a start date for work to begin and Wendy has explained to hirers of the hall that this will be taking place soon. Due to the fact that most of the work will in fact be taking place outside of the building this hopefully will not prove disruptive.

Sarah's suggestion of having signs at the turnings into Ling Common Road and Priory Lane to show directions to the VH was investigated by Will. He confirmed the Highways were happy for us to do this and will sign off on our behalf.

The lighting that was supposed to be in our new notice board has not been fitted. Will to look into and report back for the next meeting.

### **3 Updates from Sub-Committees.**

#### **Finance**

Wendy handed out copies of the latest financial figures. She explained our accounts are looking very healthy with continued income generated from hirers, bookings and West Norfolk Wins lottery payments, along with the village markets, book sales, Flea markets and bingo. Wendy explained that an audit of our accounts was undertaken by Rachel Curtis from the Parish Council. The committee passed on our thanks to Rachel for this undertaking. As a registered charity our accounts are audited on an annual basis.

We now have a very healthy balance of over £40,000 in our account. We also have bookings stretching into 2023, so overall things are looking very rosy from a financial perspective.

#### **Maintenance**

Bob explained that the VH exterior could do with painting again. However as winter approaches he suggested we concentrate on the interior until the weather is more suitable to do the outside. The weeds around the boundary and shingle of the hall need clearing. It was agreed that Bob, Neil, Will & John would complete this task on the VH Market day this coming Saturday as it would not hinder proceedings inside in any way.

Bob highlighted the unsafe nature of one of the windows at the back of the hall when opened. There is a risk of it falling out, so it was agreed to keep it securely shut with a warning sign put into situ until it can be replaced.

Noise during hirers parties held in the evenings at weekends is becoming a bit of an issue at times. It was agreed to remind hirers of the rules and

regulations regarding this. The committee is to monitor and act accordingly if people are flouting this and causing disturbances to local residents.

The flooring is in need of either being replaced or refurbished. It was agreed to get someone to assess and look into costs regarding this. Bob also suggested that the shingles on the roof may need looking at also as at least one was found to be loose.

### **Events**

Antony explained that the Village Market is this coming Saturday. Volunteers welcome on the day and to help set up on Friday evening please. We also have the Flea Market this Sunday coming, along with the Indian Curry Night and Bingo evenings imminent.

Neil asked if committee members might be able to donate some small prizes for the raffle, to which all present agreed.

Preparations for the Christmas Fair which takes place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December are going well. Antony has secured a £5,000 grant to go towards the cost of hosting the event so it is hoped it will be our biggest and best to date.

The new King's Coronation has been confirmed for the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Antony is hoping we can host another event to celebrate this.

The committee was asked kindly if they could donate and bring in bottles at the next meeting for the raffle at the Christmas Fair.

### **Bookings**

Wendy reported a steady stream of bookings as the VH continues to be a popular venue for parties, events and hirers.

We also have a regular Friday evening slot booked for the pizza guy who sells his wares outside the VH.

#### **4 AOB**

We have received a goodwill gesture payment from Anglian Water recently after the disruption to the supply that effected the locality back in the summer. The committee decided to donate £500 of this towards the cost of the refurbished children's play park on Wootton Park which was gratefully received and appreciated.

#### **5 Date of next meeting**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 7pm

Meeting concluded 20:15pm