

North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee

Meeting Monday 2nd September 2024

Apologies: Bridget Nurse.

Attendees: Dennis Blackmore (Chairman), Neil Pearce (Secretary), Wendy Border (Treasurer & Bookings), Bob Angell (Maintenance) Antony Lamb (Events) Will Border, Doreen Taylor, Jason Harper Kip Baker, Colin Smith, John & Pauline Marshall-Grint, Rachel Williamson.

Agenda

1) Approval of previous meeting minutes 8th August 2024

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2) Matters Arising

Update on quotes for the roof and flooring to be discussed in the Maintenance section of the meeting.

3) Finance

Wendy handed out the expenditure sheet for the previous period (up to 1/9/24). Once more it was reported that the finances are looking very healthy. This was helped by the usual hirers, Bingo evenings, book sales, donations and other events.

It was agreed to remove £3,000 from the Community account into the Premium account with a higher interest return.

Wendy stated that we have already taken some bookings for 2025.

4) Maintenance

Bob informed the committee that he has secured the services of a group called 'Volunteer it Yourself' to help tidy up the edge of the VH perimeter and construct the extra storage cupboard outside for the purpose of storing the scaffolding and tools. This will all be accomplished on a voluntary basis at no cost to the VH.

Bob thanked the committee members who have helped with weeding around the VH and its perimeter. He also asked politely if any of us are passing the VH to pause and pull a few weeds out as every little action like this helps to maintain its pristine appearance.

Bob read out the details of the two quotes received for the refurbishment of the VH floor from Featherby and Bourne flooring. After discussion regarding the cost of each quote and the merits of both a vote was cast by the committee and the majority decided that Bourne would be awarded the contract. Bob to inform the successful applicant and update the committee on progress at the next meeting.

Next on the agenda was the discussion regarding the quotes received for repairs to the VH roof, which includes replacing some of the cedar shingles and fitting some bird repellent spikes. The two quotes received for the work came from Jarvis Roofing and Owen Roofing. Again after discussing the merits of both a vote was cast and the majority agreed that Owen Roofing should be awarded the contract. Bob highlighted the urgency in getting this work started as soon as possible as any water ingress could cause further damage which would produce further cost. Wendy enquired as to whether we could apply for a grant for this to help but it was thought this would hold up the process and would probably be too short notice. It was agreed that the roof takes precedence in urgency over the floor and the Chairman recommended that we should commence with this as soon as possible. Bob to update the committee on progress at the next meeting.

5) Events

Antony stated that a £140.00 profit was made at the recent Indian Night.

Antony gave an update on the planning for this years Christmas Fair. It will be on a similar scale to last year with reindeers, elves etc.

Antony said that we will again be selling Christmas trees at the fair on a sale or return basis with Belford's Garden Centre to minimize costs. Sarah has agreed to run the Tombola once again and it was suggested Doreen/Colin will run the raffle. Bob/Will are in agreement to sell the Christmas trees outside and the hope is it the weather will not be too inclement for them!

It is hoped that there will be Christmas wreath making sessions again. To avoid 'no-shows' this year Will suggested a returnable deposit would be a good idea to ensure there is no disappointment.

Prior to the Christmas Fair and the monthly markets proceeding it we also have a Turkish Night in October. Tickets with the date confirmed will be going on sale soon. We will be running a bar on the night.

Next years planned VE Day celebration is being planned and it was agreed we will have food vendors at the event. To mark the event we will have a flag and a lighting of the beacon on the actual anniversary date with a 'Scarecrow Trail' where local residents will be invited to join in with the making of their own WW2 themed scarecrows in a similar fashion to the one put in place for the King's Coronation in 2023. This proved highly popular and it is proposed that people should show their creations in the week leading up to the anniversary.

Antony handed around to the committee members an example of the VH mugs and all agreed that they looked very good. An order has been placed for 6 aprons with the VH logo printed on them for use in the kitchen.

6) Bookings

Wendy stated bookings remain as healthy as ever with regular hirers and numerous events and parties, with unsurprisingly weekends proving popular for one-off event hirers. Unfortunately we have at present lost the line dancing group and Weight Watchers patronage both of which hired the hall on Thursdays.

As mentioned in the financial report we have already secured several bookings for 2025, which proves that the VH remains as popular as ever for hosting parties and celebrations alongside regular hirers and groups.

7) A.O.B

It was suggested that we could look into purchasing of some tea towels with the VH logo printed on them to use in the kitchen but also to possibly sell as souvenirs. It was questioned that this might not be cost effective, but nonetheless it was agreed to look into this and update at the next meeting.

Wendy informed the committee that two new toilet roll holders have been fixed into place and that we also need three new paper towel holders for the toilet and kitchen.

Antony suggested that we could do with some new Bluetooth speakers so that music can be played at events. Antony to update with costs at the next meeting.

In attendance at the meeting was a prospective new member of the committee Lucy Lemmon. Dennis (Chairman) introduced Lucy who informed the committee that she would very much like to join and offered her services to help in any way that she could. The committee thanked Lucy and welcomed her on board.

No other business was discussed.

Date of the next meeting – Thursday 21st October 2024. 7pm.

Meeting concluded at 20:15.