

Minutes of the Enford Village Hall Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 12th January 2016

Present:

Steve Becker, Hannah Tucker, David Spencer, Anthony D'Arcy-Irvine, Hamish Scott-Dagleish, Sally Parker, Jane Young, Jacqui Elkins, Maggie Maund

1. **Apologies:** Judy D'Arcy-Irvine, Kev Bennetts, Ollie Stagg, Jonah Jones

As Judy was not able to be present Steve Becker took the Chair for the meeting.

2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting 3rd November 2015:**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year. As he had not been present at the last meeting, the Chairman asked Hannah to briefly outline the financial situation as reported in the minutes and she explained that expenditure was down but there was a surplus between July to October 2015 of £1,500. Further financial details would be explained in her report later in the meeting.

All User Group representatives had been provisionally re-elected at the previous meeting. There had been no reported changes hence the appointments were now confirmed.

Acceptance of the Minutes were proposed by David Spencer, seconded by Sally Parker and agreed unanimously.

3. **Matters Arising:**
There were no matters arising.

4. **Treasurers Report:**

The Treasurer provided the members with a copy of the Recreation Ground and Village Hall funds analysis for the period of 1 July 2015 to 9 January 2016. She explained that the figures were better in this half year although slightly behind by approx £600 compared with the same point last year. Hannah said that although hire was down, expenditure was also down - she was not sure exactly why this was so. The committee speculated that one less wedding in the year could well explain the difference and, although the hall had been used for a lot of functions in the lead up to Christmas, most of these had been subsidised.

There were very few outstanding invoices (only about £220 not paid). Hannah said that as there were some big expenditures due in the second half of the year, there may be an overall loss by the end of the FY. Hannah undertook to check last years figures for trends.

The committee then discussed whether it would be appropriate to increase charges - as charges had remained static for the last six years, there might be a case for raising them slightly. It was thought that some groups may struggle with this but we needed to maintain profitability in the light of increased maintenance costs as things began to fail.

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5. **Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman informed the meeting that some good events had taken place before

Christmas including the WW1 event, Acoustic Goths (who were very good), the Remembrance Day Lunch, the Church Fair, 'A Christmas Carol' theatre production, the village Children's Party and the Christmas Dinner (which had not been so well attended). The Chairman asked the committee members to consider ways to encourage more people to attend events.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Kriss Mitchell had stood down as Secretary. The committee welcomed Maggie Maund who would be taking over as the new Secretary.

6. **Maintenance Office Report:**

The Maintenance Officer informed the meeting that the men's loos had been repaired and parts had been ordered for the ladies loos. Crown Security would be checking the fire alarm, emergency and security systems on 20th January. The ground source heat pump and hot water system was due to be serviced on 19th Jan.

7. **Grounds Officer Report:**

The Grounds Officer said that things were O.K. Hamish also said he would be liaising with an interested party to have some dead trees on the bank cut. There were no objections to this providing the trees were dead.

8. **Future Projects:**

a). Car Park Lights:

The Chairman explained that the VH had been quoted in excess of £3.7K to upgrade the lights. This would involve putting in taller bollards and adding a couple of new ones. Knee fencing, to protect the bollards, would also be required at additional cost. The committee agreed that this seemed expensive. Hamish suggested a survey to canvass opinion from the Hall users regarding the car park light, wheelchair access etc. Steve agreed to this. After receiving feedback from this survey, the matter would be discussed again.

b). Stockade Shed:

Quotes for sheds would be obtained so as to free up storage space in the hall by moving the content of the football store into the shed. A concrete base for any new shed might be expensive but the aim was to expedite this project and finish by the end of the year. The new access door in the stockade had completed the first part of the project.

c). Outdoor Exercise Equipment:

There had been 17 responses to the second Parish Plan survey. This had included 5.4 votes (representing 1.9% of the households in the parish) for outdoor exercise equipment. Bearing in mind that, even if we got a grant to cover purchase costs, the hall would still be responsible for ongoing insurance and maintenance costs. The poor response from the survey suggested the equipment would not be well used – in view of the potential expenditure that may be required, it was decided not to pursue this project.

d). Annual Maintenance:

It was agreed that the Hall would probably need to be painted inside annually if it is to continue to attract bookings for weddings etc. Judy had arranged with Quinton to do this in March after the shutter people had been. David would come up with some dates for the annual maintenance day. Committee members were asked to notify him of any jobs needing to be done.

9. Future Events:

A concert on 5 March 2016 will be organised and underwritten by Liz Lipscomb. She will arrange the band and bar etc. at her own expense. Tickets will be £10 and doors will open at 7:30pm for 8:00pm. This event will be advertised around the village.

A Midsummers Night's Dream will be performed in the summer. The committee agreed that the end of June might be a good time to put this play on.

10. Dates for 2016 Meetings:

The Chairman asked everyone to check their availability for the dates and report back to him if there are any problems. Dates proposed are 15 March / 17 May / 12 July / 13 Sep AGM / 8 Nov / 10 Jan 2017.

11. Any Other Business:

There was a discussion regarding what future events may be held at the Hall to attract villagers to attend. Hannah made a number of suggestions including:

- A Last Night of the Proms evening
- A Burns Night Supper
- Valentines Dinner
- Guided Walks followed by lunch
- Quiz and meal
- Harvest Supper
- TV Games evening and supper
- Guest Speakers and supper

Hamish suggested that the Hall could be used for Adult Education classes and said he would investigate whether there was any demand.

Steve said he would discuss these suggestions with Judy and report back. He also said that whilst he and Judy didn't mind taking the lead on organising events, attendance levels could be better and committee members could provide much needed moral support by attending events themselves, and by bringing friends and neighbours along.

Steve asked that any more ideas for making more use of the hall, particularly for its daytime usage should be emailed to himself or Judy.

Steve thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.