

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Open Meeting Held on Monday 11th November 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Liddell Hall at the Village Hall

Present: Alan Ball, Bruce Batting, Ivan Gosden, Brue Jones, Natalie Larner, Nick Robinson, Ian Sellars & Gilly Duckworth

Members of the Public: Audrey Gordon
Dan Farrow Gardening Club
Jane Farrow Arts Society
Jacky Morgan Loddon Quilters
Andy Morgan Gardening Club/Parish Council
John Attwood Village Green Volunteers
John Darker Village Green Volunteers
Di Effiong
Mary O'Connor
Steve Barlin Basingstoke Concert Band
Lesley Gourlay Basingstoke Concert Band
Claudia Phillips Happy Faces Playgroup

In attendance: Eleanor Burt

Apologies for absence had been received from Norman from the Bowls Club

1. Chairman's Report

Ivan Gosden reported that the Village Hall had been through a very productive period since the last open meeting. Funding of £107,000 has been secured and a planning applications is being prepared for the first of two stages of the extension proposed. The first stage of the application will extend the kitchen and bar area and provide a kitchen store.

2. Report by Duckworth Marketing

Gilly Duckworth thanked Ian Sellars and the Business Plan committee for producing an excellent document which is now the backbone for fundraising activities. She reported that funds raised since the last meeting were £107k from Local Infrastructure Funds from BDBC and £15,000 from the Council for floor repairs and maintenance.

Funds have also been raised at the Beer Festival, Promos Night and other fundraising initiatives.

Current bids for further funding are:

Veolia – up to 50k

Four Lanes Trust – up to 5k

LEADER Rural Funding – up to 30k

ACRE and Defra (Action with Communities in Rural England) – accepted for second part of the application. Up to 75k

Totalling approximately £160k and more requests are in the pipeline.

The Good Exchange has accepted our bid for match-funding and we are waiting for the right funder to approach us. Our bid is continually updated as we progress with the extension project.

Marketing/Partnerships include - agreement with the Wellington Arms for discounted rooms Sunday markets, Beer Festival & Last Night of the Proms

3. Report from Friends of the Village Hall

Natalie Larner reported on behalf of the Friends of the Village Hall. The monthly coffee morning has been discontinued following the establishment of the monthly Village Market which is proving extremely popular. There have been approximately 200 visitors to each market and stall holders have been happy with the footfall. It is hoped that future markets will feature more food stalls. Advertising of the markets is increasing. The Basingstoke Concert Band will be holding their annual Christmas Concert in December and there will be a puppet panto and barn dance in the New Year. Natalie encouraged groups to give her or Hazel (Caretaker) information on their groups for display on the board at the Village Hall.

4. Report from Beer Festival

Ian Sellars explained why the date of the Beer Festival had been moved to the beginning of September in order to avoid other hall bookings. This year gin and prosecco bars had been added which have proved very popular and will be repeated next year. This year profit was approximately £3,500 which will be split between Headway and the Village Hall.

5. Open Forum

- (a) John Darker asked why accounts were not available at the meeting.
Reply: The Village Hall year end is September and the accounts will be published in due course.
- (b) Andy Morgan & Dan Farrow said that they had experienced problems with booking the Hall on Hallmaster
Reply: The Committee are aware of the problems and are working on sorting them out
- (c) Jacky Morgan said that the Loddon Quilters had several cheques which had been paid to the Village Hall which have not yet been cashed.
Reply: The cheques have now been presented to the bank. A new Treasurer will take over for the Village Hall in the new year.
- (d) Claudia Phillips said that Happy Faces would like to have permission to replace the playhouse.
Reply: The Committee are happy for the playhouse to be replaced and Nick Robinson offered to help.
- (e) John Darker asked what progress had been made to improve the sound particularly in the main hall.
Reply: The Committee are looking into the use of screens to break up the main hall area.
- (f) Di Effiong said that sound is a problem in the Liddell Hall too.
Reply: The Committee will look into improving sound quality in the Liddell Hall at the same time as the main hall.
- (g) John Attwood asked whether the curtains could be put back up in the main hall to improve sound quality.
Reply: The Committee did not intend to rehang the curtains.

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In attendance: Eleanor Burt & Audrey Gordon

The Chairman welcomed Audrey Gordon to the meeting – Audrey has expressed an interest in taking on the post of Treasurer.

1. Apologies for Absence

All members of the Management Committee were present.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 14th October 2019

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record.

3. Duckworth Marketing Report

Gilly Duckworth reported that she had nothing further to add to the report given to the Open Meeting apart from the fact that the application to the Four Lanes Trust has progressed to the next round for consideration.

4. Main Hall Floor

Ivan Gosden reported that a few problems have emerged with the repaired Main Hall floor – Roger Fuller will be asked to look at and repair the floor and the surplus grant for the repairs to the floor will be used to cover the cost. Also, Nick Robinson will look at the chimney in connection with ventilation to the floor.

Action: Ivan Gosden to ask Roger Fuller to look at and carry out repairs to the Main Hall floor

Nick Robinson to look at the chimney in connection with the floor ventilation

5. Hallmaster

Natalie Larner suggested offering a training session for groups on the use of Hallmaster once it is operating correctly.

Action: Wendy Gosden & Gilly Duckworth to sort out problems with Hallmaster

6. Extension

Ivan Gosden reported that the bat survey will be carried out on 12th November. The planning application for the extension will be submitted to the Borough Council during the first week in December with a decision hopefully made by the end of February. The pre application has been done together with an explanation of phase 2 of the application. Plans for the extension were approved and it was agreed that Leo Mulkerns should submit them to the Borough Council.

Action: Leo Mulkerns to submit the planning application for the extension

7. Sunday Market

The Sunday Markets are proving successful and Hazel Cook has asked if they can carry on. It was agreed that the markets should continue.

8. Screen Dividers for the Main Hall

Ian Sellars agreed to arrange the order of screen dividers for the Main Hall. It was agreed to ask the Parish Council for a grant towards the cost of the dividers and to look at improving sound quality in the Liddell Hall at the same time. Natalie Larner will investigate the way sound can be improved in the Liddell Hall.

Action: Ian Sellars to order screen dividers for the Main Hall
The Parish Council be asked to consider a grant towards sound improvement
Natalie Larner to investigate sound improvement in the Liddell Hall

9. Cricket Pavilion – Application for Change of Use

Nick Robinson did not take part in the consideration of the application for change of use of the Cricket Pavilion. Natalie Larner and Nick Robinson said that they could not support a letter of objection to the planning application from the Management Committee. It was agreed to send a letter of objection to the Borough Council regarding funding of any works at the Cricket Pavilion.

Action: Ivan Gosden to send a letter to the Borough Council objecting to the grant of funding to any improvements to the Cricket Pavilion.

10. Maintenance Log

Ivan Gosden reported that he had spoken to Hazel Cook and she is going to update the maintenance log. It was noted that the fans in the Main Hall are not working and require attention.

11. Fete 2019 Update

It was noted that the insurance company have paid out £2,400 in cancellation insurance. All fete funds are being transferred to the Metro Account.

12. Loddon Valley Link

It was agreed that items for the Loddon Valley Link should be the application for a Parish Council grant, pictures of Remembrance refreshments, upcoming events including barn dance and final plans for the extension planning application.

13. Finance

Ivan Gosden reported that the bank balance currently stands at £58,000 across two bank accounts.

14. Facebook

Nick Robinson said that Facebook should be used more for the Village Hall to inform and update.

Action: Nick Robinson to look into improving use of Facebook for the Village Hall

15. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 9th December 2019

Actions:

Ivan Gosden to ask Roger Fuller to look at and carry out repairs to the Main Hall floor

Nick Robinson to look at the chimney in connection with the floor ventilation

Wendy Gosden & Gilly Duckworth to sort out problems with Hallmaster

Leo Mulkerns to submit the planning application for the extension

Ian Sellars to order screen dividers for the Main Hall

The Parish Council be asked to consider a grant towards sound improvement

Natalie Larner to investigate sound improvement in the Liddell Hall

Ivan Gosden to send a letter to the Borough Council objecting to the grant of funding to any improvements to the Cricket Pavilion.

Nick Robinson to look into improving use of Facebook for the Village Hall