

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting Held on Monday 1st February 2021 at 8.00 pm via “Zoom”

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

In attendance: Gilly Duckworth

1. Apologies for Absence

All members of the Committee were present.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 7th December 2020

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record. Natalie pointed out that in Minute 5 the sub-paragraphs were incorrectly numbered resulting in two x 5(f) and it was agreed that this would be corrected. Alan Ball asked that thanks be recorded to Eleanor for producing the minutes from recorded versions of the zoom meetings.

3. Update from Duckwood Marketing

“Weddings

Government Guidelines 1 February 2021:

“You should only consider booking a wedding or civil partnership (or continuing with one that is already booked) in exceptional circumstances. This may be for example, if you or your partner is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or is to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. Weddings and civil partnership ceremonies must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included.”

Preparing for the future:

Paragraph promoting our approach to weddings and our ability to have social distanced weddings prepared. Suggest I publish an interim paragraph.

Will need to consider the availability of accommodation and caterers.

Can we purchase a license so people only have to travel to one location? Good USP. Cost is £2396 for 3 years (£799 per annum). Takes 3 months to complete the application.

Clift Surgery

No response to our offer of space for vaccinations.

Reading the comments on Basecamp by other village Hall this does not appear to be unusual.

Kitchen Opening

Asked Jane Mateus-Rawlins (LIF Department) to advise who should be invited (mayor, Rani I Jayawardena MP, local councillors, etc.), to follow the correct protocols.

Timescale: possibly May?

BDBC

Up-to-date photographs sent to the LIF team this month.

Facebook

During the period 4 - 31 January, 214 people read our comments.

This is an increase of 31% compared with December 2020.

Fundraising

JustGiving: £341.25 donated to date. £275 in donations and £66.25 Gift Aid.

Applied to NFU Mutual for up to £1000 for kitchen equipment.
Garfield Weston changed eligibility due to the pandemic. Re-applying.
Matthew Good Foundation – share of £10k. Will apply this week.
HCC Councillor Grants still listed.
Researching National (not Local) Restrictions Support Grants.
Researching various lockdown support grants via information from Action Hampshire.
Cancelled Greenham Trust (The Good Exchange) application for funds as they wish to charge us £150 per quarter. We received £2500 from them in January 2020.

Website Statistics

For December 2020 and January 2021:

110 people viewed the website, a decrease of 65 compared with November.

310 page viewings, down by 9%.

People stayed on the pages they view for an average of 2 minutes and 36 seconds, compared with 1 minute and 16 seconds in November.

74% of visitors were new and 26% were returning visitors (78% and 22% in November).

Most popular pages were: Home page, News & Events, Weddings, Activities, Buy a Brick in Time”

**Action: Gilly to apply for wedding licence for the Village Hall from HCC
Gilly will put latest pictures of kitchen onto Village Hall website
Nick will put latest pictures of kitchen onto village Facebook page**

4. Facebook

Alan gave members sight of the correspondence which has appeared on the Village Facebook page. Which started with a post by Hazel Cook with an explanation by Alan and then a response by the Parish Council and also with comments posted by others. Ivan said that there were a few inaccuracies in their statement.

Regarding the drainage issue, a meeting had been held with Building Control and members of the Parish Council regarding the matter. The Parish Council are insisting that a soakaway should be installed. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Parish Council and that photographs of the kitchen and a short note saying that inaccuracies in the Parish Council’s statement will be taken up directly with the Parish Council.

Natalie queried who should have been responsible for ensuring how the rainwater disposal would be dealt with. It was explained that this is something that cannot always be sorted out prior to construction commences.

It seems likely that a soakaway will have to be constructed.

Action: Bruce Jones to write an appropriate letter to the Clerk Parish Council (draft letter to be circulated to members prior to sending to the Parish Council) drawing attention to inaccuracies in the statement on Facebook and also asking that they contact the Village Hall Committee in all communications rather than individual trustees

5. Kitchen Update

Decorators in this week to finish off decorating. Grill should arrive in the next two weeks.

Doors are up on the bar. Electrics more or less finished as well as few other odds and ends.

6. Loddon Valley Link

No action required as there will be another management meeting before deadline for the next edition which will be for February.

7. Financial Report

Ivan reported that just over £8,000 has been received in Covid grants from the Borough Council in payments due up to 15th February with possibly more to come. Bank balance is £15,000 in the Metro

account plus £3,000 in Nat West with bills to pay for about £2,500 for kitchen plus about £1,000 for the repairs to the main hall floor. Also rent due in from Happy Faces of about £5,000.

Nick suggested that the Parish Council be asked for a grant towards the cost of redecorating the outside of the Hall but it was agreed not to take this further at this point in time.

8. Fundraising

Natalie reported that there will be another push on “Brick in Time” shortly. Another display will be put up to replace the ribbons which were displayed by the front wall. Fundraising so far is £3,500 to £4,000.

Action: Natalie to discuss new display ideas with Nick Robinson

9. Caretaker’s Kitchen

Hazel has asked if she and Pete can start to take out their kitchen and install the old kitchen from the Hall. It was agreed to allow this but to discuss with them what they propose to do.

Action: Ivan to speak to Pete and Hazel Cook about carrying out the work to replace the kitchen in the Caretaker’s Cottage

10. Fete

Discussion took place on whether the Fete can be held this year. It was agreed to keep this matter under discussion each month – consideration of a fete in some form possibly later in the summer.

11. Loddon Valley Link

Nick suggested that it may be good to put a brief idea in the Loddon Valley Link of the Village Hall finances (income/expenditure/grants received/projects undertaken/future projects etc).

It was agreed to put a note into the Link of the grants and fundraising amounts received as well as a resume of costs for the extension works.

Action: Ivan to send the figures around to all members before they are published in the Loddon Link to show income and expenditure for the extension works.

12. Trustees

It was agreed to rename the post of “Treasurer” as “Book Keeper” and for approximately half a day a week and as a paid position. It was agreed to ask Jan Holden if she would be interested and if she is to get her to talk to Wendy about the amount of work involved.

Action: Bruce to ask Jan whether she would be interested in the post of Book Keeper

Nick to ask Eleanor if she would be interested in becoming a Trustee

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st March 2021 at 8.00 p.m.

List of Actions:

Gilly to apply for wedding licence for the Village Hall from HCC

Gilly will put latest pictures of kitchen onto Village Hall website

Nick will put latest pictures of kitchen onto village Facebook page

Bruce Jones to write an appropriate letter to the Clerk Parish Council (draft letter to be circulated to members prior to sending to the Parish Council) drawing attention to inaccuracies in the statement on Facebook and also asking that they contact the Village Hall Committee in all communications rather than individual trustees

Natalie to discuss new display ideas with Nick Robinson

Ivan to speak to Pete and Hazel Cook about carrying out the work to replace the kitchen in the Caretaker’s Cottage

Ivan to send the figures around to all members before they are published in the Loddon Link to show income and expenditure for the extension works.

Bruce to ask Jan whether she would be interested in the post of Book Keeper

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