

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Meeting held on 11th October 2021 at 8 pm in the Garden Room at the Village Hall

Present: Alan Ball, Bruce Batting, Eleanor Burt, Ivan Gosden, Natalie Larner & Nick Robinson

In attendance: Gilly Woodland, Wendy Gosden

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Bruce Jones.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th September had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record.

3. Report from Duckwood Marketing

Gilly provided the following report –

"Marketing

- Received an email from the editor of the Bramley and Sherfield Community Magazine offering space for Village Hall news in their next issue. Copy needs to be submitted by 1 November.

Suggestions: Sunday Market news, wedding licence, welcoming groups and societies back, fundraising, VH building news (exterior painting, etc.).

- Weddings meeting: held on 17th September with various topics discussed, including a list of equipment required to ensure we provide a professional and dignified service. Notes have been circulated to the trustees.
- Open event: the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress appear to be available for the event on Thursday 28th October. This will be confirmed tomorrow (12 October).

Fundraising - Four Lanes Trust

- Met with Anne Blackmore (Director, Four Lanes Trust) at VH on Friday 17th Sept. with Ian to discuss the installation of electric charging points, so we can apply for funding. There will be a trustees meeting in mid-November when a decision will be made. Anne will be requesting £1000 for us.

Website Statistics

- 451 people viewed the website, an increase of 6 people compared with August.
- There were 1191 page viewings, compared with 1161 in August.
- Visitors stayed on the pages they viewed for an average of 2 minutes 17 seconds, an increase of 29%.
- 69% of visitors were new and 31% were returning (people who have viewed the website before).
- Most popular pages were: Home page, Book Here, Facilities & Booking, Sunday Market, Activities, Weddings & Ceremonies.

4. Appointment of Treasurer

Natalie reported that she has the forms to complete for BVA and she will also enquire about people who expressed an interest in taking on the role of treasurer of U3A. Natalie will also ask Dennis Bleakley to see if he would be interested.

Action: Natalie to complete BVA forms

Natalie to enquire about people who had expressed an interest in taking on role of treasurer of U3A

Natalie to ask Dennis Bleakley if he is interested in taking on the role of Treasurer

5. Equipment Required for Wedding Ceremonies

It was agreed that up to £500 can be spent on equipment for wedding ceremonies as listed in the report of the Weddings Organisation Meeting held on 17th September circulated with the agenda.

6. Kitchen Opening Ceremony

It was noted that the Mayor is free on Thursday 28th October and confirmation is awaited that he can attend an official opening ceremony on that date.

7. Charging Point

Ian Sellars reported that the price for one 7Kw charging point installation would be £2665.95 with a grant available of £1,000 towards the cost. Nick Robinson agreed to check whether more grant could be made available and whether any planning regulations would be applicable. It was agreed that if Nick Robinson can secure a further £1,000 then the installation can go ahead without reference to next month's meeting.

Action: Nick Robinson to check whether further grant can be made available towards the cost of a charging point and whether planning regulations are applicable

8. **CIO:** Bruce Batting reported that progress is still slow.

9. **Grass Cutting**

It was agreed that Peter Elliott should be asked to complete this season's grass cutting and then Bruce Batting will obtain a price from him for grass cutting next year so that a comparison can then be made with the Caretaker carrying out the cutting (including cost of lawn mower) and disposal of grass cuttings.

10. **Village Market Report:** Natalie Lerner's report will be circulated to all Trustees.

11. **Sherfield Fete 2022**

Natalie reported that a recent meeting had been held but there were only eight attendees to discuss next year's Fete to be held in July.

~~It was proposed~~ to hold an event similar to "Sherfield Together Again" to celebrate the platinum jubilee on the weekend of 2-5 June. It was agreed to discuss this again at a specific meeting of the VHMC.

The next Fete Committee meeting will be held on 26th October at 7 p.m.

12. **Remembrance Sunday 14th November**

Nick Robinson agreed to take down the thermometer and put up the soldier on 30th October. Tea and coffee after the Remembrance Sunday service will be served at the Village Hall.

13. **Treasurer's Report**

Wendy Gosden reported that there is £5751 in the NatWest account, £46,543 in one Metro account and £4112 in the other. The Architect's invoice has been paid and Ivan Gosden will circulate the Architect's price for the preparation of plans for the next stage of improvements at the Village Hall.

Action: Ivan Gosden to circulate Architect's price for preparation of plans for next stage of improvements

14. **Dates for Future Meetings**

It was agreed that the following meetings would be held:

1st November Trustees meeting

8th November Management Committee meeting

15. **Loddon Valley Link**

It was agreed that the following items be included in the November edition of the Loddon Valley Link:

Remembrance Service – tea and coffee after service

Village Market

Puppet Theatre (if confirmed)

Christmas Concert – 15th December

List of Actions:

Natalie to complete BVA forms

Natalie to enquire about people who had expressed an interest in taking on role of treasurer of U3A

Natalie to ask Dennis Bleakley if he is interested in taking on the role of Treasurer

Nick Robinson to check whether further grant can be made available towards the cost of a charging point and whether planning regulations are applicable

Ivan Gosden to circulate Architect's price for preparation of plans for next stage of improvements