

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held on 12th September 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Garden Room at the Village Hall

Present: Alan Ball, Derek Tarrant, Ivan Gosden, Bruce Batting, Natalie Larner with Gilly Woodland attending via the internet

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Eleanor Burt and Ian Sellars

2. Minutes of the Management Meeting held on 1st August 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st August 2022 had been circulated and were agreed with one correction – item 8 – Happy Faces - “have received” replacing “have accepted”

3. Report Duckwood marketing

General website updates, social media posts, etc.

- I have posted a notice on the website and social media regarding the Village Hall closure on Monday 19th September for the funeral of her late Majesty.
- I will also post on social media that the Sunday Market and the Beer Festival are going ahead.

Fundraising

- Strengthening Communities fund, managed by BVA for BDBC: up to £10,000.
- South Western Railway: no indication of maximum funding. Need to discuss project with SWR, aiming for £100,000.
- LIF grants no longer exist, so requested information from the Rural Communities fund (maximum £5,000 match-funded).
- Postcode Lottery funding round opens on 3rd October. Will apply for £100,000.
- Garfield Weston Foundation: we are eligible. Funds up to £100,000.
- NFU Mutual: large project funding available from November. Will apply for £100,000.

Most deadlines to apply for funding close within the next two months.

Last Month Website Statistics (July)

- The website had 447 sessions (people signing in), an increase of 6% from July.
- 978 pages were viewed, an increase of 27% from July.
- People spent an average of 1 minute and 31 seconds on each page, an increase of 44% from July.
- 78% of people who viewed the website were new users, and 22% were returning. 55% of people viewed the website on their mobile `phones, 43% on desktop computers and 2% on tablets.

The most popular pages were Home, Sunday Market, Book Here, Facilities and Booking, Weddings & Ceremonies.

4. Caretaker update. To include work rotas, boiler update.

Hazel has had the necessary procedures, expecting to return home shortly, but she is signed off for four weeks, till mid-October, and should not be involved in any hall activities.

Boiler issue has been resolved at much lower cost than expected by use of a manufacturer's component replacement scheme.

Work rotas – OK for the current week, but Wendy will send out mail looking for help later this week. Only issue is with Hot Cross Tots cancelling at last minute with no notice. Decision agreed to charge full hire rate if not given 2 days' notice of cancellation.

They also questioned if they could hire the kitchen only at a lower charge – point made that this would involve more work for less income, and hence is not viable.

5. Hall hire rates

Happy Faces management have not yet reviewed their new contract and will now not be meeting until end of October. It was felt that they had been given more than the required notice period already, and that the new contract should be actioned as soon as possible regardless.

Also they were leaving "memorials" permanently in the garden, and that they should be reminded that they should not be doing this.

No objections or feedback from other groups

6. Fete update

It was commented that it had all worked very smoothly, and lots of positive feedback had been received – the fete committee will be meeting shortly to discuss. It was suggested that the trial use of the Tesco trailer for the band was not optimal, and it would hence not be used for the Beer festival. The new layout was generally approved of, but pay-bar should have been better sign-posted. Brief discussion of cash donation buckets, felt that Covid etc had reduced general use of cash, and maybe other means of collection could be investigated (e.g., pre-set card donations)

7. Beer festival update (to discuss possible cancellation)

The issue of potentially cancelling the beer festival in line with other events being cancelled during the mourning period resulting from the Queen's death was discussed, during which it was noted that this is an event raising money in aid of charity, and the discussion resulted in a vote being held, with a 3-2 vote to continue as planned.

The issue of cancelling the Sunday market was also discussed separately (as this will be the day before the funeral), and it was decided that it should also go ahead, whilst allowing that it would be a personal decision for volunteers to opt out should they feel it was not suitable.

8. Fund raising

Derek reported on the arrangements and details for the upcoming performance from John Kirkpatrick and agreed to forward details to Jill for publicity purposes.

Natalie mentioned that as she will be away for the January puppet show, someone will be needed to 'host' the event

9. E.V. Charger

Item deferred as Ian not present

10. L.V.L.

Fete, lunch club, upcoming events - JK, Barn Dance, Puppet show, December Band show

11. Finance Report

Ivan Gosden reported that the balances were as follows

£ 32,866.83 Metro
£ 852.17 NatWest
£ 6,243.98 Fete

The NatWest account is now below the level required to be maintained. NatWest have notified us that we will no longer be able to pay money into the NatWest account via the Post Office as will in future need a barcoded form supplied from a paying-in book (which we do not currently have).

The Fete account includes fete proceeds yet to be paid out.

The general consensus is that we need a review of our accounts and structure with a view to reducing bank charges

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 4th October 2022 at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8:46pm