

SHERFIELD-ON-LODDON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting held on 6th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Garden Room at the Village Hall

Present: Alan Ball, Bruce Batting, Eleanor Burt, Ivan Gosden, Natalie Larner, Ian Sellars & Derek Tarrant

In attendance: Wendy Gosden & Gilly Woodland

1. Apologies for Absence

All Trustees were present at the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Management Meetings held on 6th & 16th February 2023

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th & 16th February had been circulated and were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

16th February – Item 2

The item heading should be “Old Basing U3A Group” not NADFAS

3. Report from Duckwood Marketing

Gilly gave the following update:

Marketing

- This month I have concentrated on updating the website (Minutes, etc.) and many pages, such as the Fundraising page.
- I have worked on making the website ‘safe’ and showing as an ‘HTTPS’ website. I may have to contact the hosting company (TSOhost) to enable the changes to be made, but I am waiting for a response from Mark Scott before I do that.
- I have requested updates to the version of PHP (the website language) which we are currently using as it does not support security updates.
- I will add our services to the new BVA Services Directory. The Lunch Club is there, but nothing else.

Fundraising

- I will ask our Councillors for contributions from their funds for the refurbishment of the cottage and painting the exterior of the Village Hall.
- The updated Business Plan has been received. Many thanks to Ian for this.
- Warm Places/Hubs fund: called Helen to discuss how we can use the Lunch Club for this. I need a further conversation with Helen before I can apply for funding.

I am in the process of applying for:

Funding Body	Amount £
HCC Leader Fund	25,000
Postcode Lottery	100,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	100,000
NFU Mutual	100,000

- I will research HCC Local Solutions grants (up to £10k). Could be used to achieve outcomes such as prevention of loneliness and isolation, enabling recreational facilities and services. I will discuss this with Bruce.
- I will also research the Wolfson Foundation, which provides funding for capital projects. Magic Little grants (Localgiving) has also just launched for grants up to £500.

Website Statistics

Last 30 Days to 6 March 2023:

- The website had 424 sessions (people signing in), a decrease of 20% from the previous 30 days.
- 859 pages were viewed, a decrease of 20% from the previous 30 days.
- People spent an average of 1 minute and 28 seconds on each page, an increase of 21%.
- 72% of people who viewed the website were new users, and 28% were returning. 44% of people viewed the website on their mobile 'phones, 52% on desktop computers and 4% on tablets.

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

4. Finance Report

Derek reported that the bank account balances were £18,081.71 & £1,616.08 which include one payment from Happy Faces with a further payment outstanding. The balances do not include a recent payment of £3,250 to Southern Electric and there will be a receipt to come for the feed in tariff for the solar panels.
It was agreed not to proceed with a Paypal account at the moment.

5. No 2 Cottage - Repairs

Plumbing works will be completed this week and the electrical works have been started. The decorator should be starting next week.
Bruce Batting is getting a thermal survey carried out on the roof.
It was provisionally agreed to meet on Saturday 18th March to clear the old carpets from the Cottage.

6. External Redecoration

The application for grant was completed ready for submission to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the works should be started as soon as possible and an approximate timeframe for completion of the works would be eight weeks. It was agreed not to send a covering letter with the application.

7. Car Park Fence

It was reported that the fence between the car park and the garage was taken down on 6th March and reinstatement is underway. The garage have made a public apology for the inconvenience caused.

8. Environmental Health Visit

The Borough Council's Environmental Health Department visited the Village Hall the previous week and have now awarded a 5 star rating to the Hall. Wendy Gosden will send the certificate to Gilly. It was noted that the Hall Trustees will need to undertake appropriate training. Hazel is on board with all the applicable regulations.

Action: Wendy Gosden to send Environmental Health certificate to Gilly Woodland

9. Bookings

Old Basing U3A Group have booked the hall for May and June. The June meeting will be a garden party. Wendy Gosden will talk to Happy Faces Playgroup about U3A using the garden.

Action: Wendy Gosden to talk to Happy Faces about U3A using the garden

10. Happy Faces Playgroup

It was agreed that the fence limiting how much of the garden can be used by Happy Faces can now be taken down.

11. Booking Enquiries

It was noted that there have been two wedding enquiries for 2024.

The History Society have asked if they can book the Village Hall in July – it was agreed that the Society should be charged the “in parish” rate for their booking.

It was agreed that the Loddon Lilys should be charged £140 for a Saturday booking.

12. Village Market

There were fewer stalls at the February Village Market but a profit of £185.30 was still achieved. The next market will be held on 19th March.

13. EV Charger

Ian Sellars reported that for February 73 Kw was used and the for the year March 2022 to March 2023 1990Kw was used and 1115kg CO2 saved.

14. Village Fete

Natalie reported that there will not now be re-enactors at the fete. The dog show is going ahead.

Bruce Batting is discussing insurance cover with Nick Robinson. The distribution of profit to charities is to be discussed at the next meeting.

15. Fund Raising

Race Night – 1st April

Clive Fortune Band – the band can do 24th February

Concert Band BBQ – 1st July

Last Night of the Proms – 9th September

Blues Band – possibly 14th October

16. Dates for Meetings

AGM – 2nd May 2023

User group meeting – 4th September 2023

Dates to be discussed in more detail at the April monthly meeting.

17. Loddon Valley Link

Item to be included - Fete

Actions

Wendy Gosden to send Environmental Health certificate to Gilly Woodland

Wendy Gosden to talk to Happy Faces about U3A using the garden

