

BUCKLAND NEWTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Village Hall on 29th June 2016 at 7.30 pm

ATTENDANCE

Nicki Barker [NB] (*in the chair*), Jeremy Collins [JC], Jan Marpole [JM], Trevor Marpole [TM], Fran Parker [FP], Sue Sulkin [SS].

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Kelly Evans (*Toddlers Group*), Katharine Hayens (*Artsreach*), Ian Scott, Cathy Shippey (*Art Class*) and David Oswald (*Youth Club*). and Jan Marpole.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4th JUNE 2015

The minutes were circulated by the Minute Secretary. Approval of the Minutes was proposed by Jan Marpole, seconded by Trevor Marpole, agreed unanimously by those at that meeting and signed by the Chair.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i. Hut for Toddlers Group Equipment. This was not now needed as the equipment was being stored in the shed previously used for newspaper collection.

ii. Hall Clock. Cathy Shippey had found it impossible to keep the clock operating satisfactorily. The clock had previously been examined by a clock repairer in Sherborne who had reported that the mechanism was of good quality and could not advise replacing it by an electric mechanism. However, unless the clock was maintained in precisely the right position it was liable to malfunction. It was agreed to look again at replacing the mechanism by a battery-powered unit.

NB

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported as follows:

The past year had been a trouble free and quiet year for the Village Hall Committee since the AGM in June 2015 with only one Committee Meeting required on the 19th December.

Sue Sulkin continued to do the most incredible job as Bookings Secretary and Treasurer. Bookings had gone well with a number of outside bookings, village events including Artsreach performances, weddings, celebrations and parties alongside our regular Lunch Club, Youth Club, Village Café, monthly group meetings and art and exercise classes. The hall was now being very well used and despite keeping the fees modest, was more than paying its way.

The one week Sue had left the Chair in charge of the Bookings Book provided the realisation of what a sterling job she did. In

that one week, bookings, confirmations, queries on access and a complaint had to be dealt with. Sue had been dealing with this 52 times over and probably with far more skill and tact. It was important to place on record how indebted the Committee were to her and how much appreciated was all that she did to keep the hall running so smoothly.

Similarly, the Committee's indebtedness and appreciation very much went out to Trevor and Jan Marpole who had so willingly responded to repair and maintenance issues throughout the year.

The main unusual expenditure in the year had been the sanding back and resealing of the main hall floor and the stage at a cost of £1100. Towards this cost the Hall had received a generous contribution from the Fete of £500. The work had been carried out in August after the annual clean-up and paint and it was noted that the front edge of the stage was slightly rough following the sanding back and would need attention during the next clean-up weekend.

The annual hall clean-up on the 26th July had sadly been a rather wet day which meant that some jobs, such as re-oiling the notice Board could not be done. Nonetheless the walls throughout the hall were painted along with much of the woodwork. A good number of volunteers from the various users groups had turned up and with many hands almost all jobs were completed within one day. Trevor had gallantly got thoroughly wet sorting out the guttering and having it effectively tested immediately.

The gardeners had continued to do a fine job keeping the grass tidy around the hall so that the native flora seemed to be diversifying and it had been a joy to see the appearance of 6 new Common Spotted Orchids in the front grass. Gill Southam had equally kept the border adjacent to Stevens Walk a delightful mixture of wild and cultivated plants. The Committee would greatly miss her green fingers when she left the village and would possibly need to ask the gardeners to add this to their grass cutting task.

The new drainage installed behind the hall had been tested hard during the last very wet winter and appeared to have coped well. The wilderness area beyond had now settled down into a mature woodland area and had clearly been much enjoyed by the youth club.

The Parish Council had asked the Committee if it would be prepared for the Hall to be one of the dedicated "Emergency Shelters" for the village in a time of crisis. To this end they had applied for a grant (since declined because of the size of generator required) to purchase a suitable generator that could support the hall if needed in a power outage. The Committee had discussed this at the December Meeting and had been very happy to cooperate, but there had been no request for the Hall to provide

any funding.

The issue over minor lead contamination of the mains water supply to the hall had been resolved by Wessex Water with a new supply pipe being installed by them from the road to the hall inlet outside the disabled cloakroom. This had been carried out in August 2015 at the expense of Wessex Water.

The Hall had continued to host a wonderfully varied programme of Artsreach drama, pantomime, music, dance and song. Each event had been a great success and had made an extraordinarily beneficial contribution to the finances of the hall. The Committee were indebted to Ian Scott, Katharine Haynes and Fran Parker for their unstinting efforts in organizing these. The March events in particular, a cabaret style performance by the Moscow Drug Club had been a sell-out, generating a fantastic £359 for the hall. Looking ahead, a special children's summer activity day was planned for the 8th August using the wilderness area behind the hall, and the first of the 3 winter Artsreach events was a concert by the world renowned guitarist John Etheridge. Fran had again raised the need for a wooden roller shutter to the Kitchen area during these events and this was something the Committee would need to look at prioritizing this year.

It was with sadness that an email was received from David Oswald, the leader of the Youth Club, advising that if a new leader could not be found after the summer vacation, there was a risk that the Youth Club would close. He had advised that if the Youth Club still remained leaderless by the end of the year then he would organize removal of their equipment from the rear storage room.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year and reported as follows:

The Hall continued to be well used, providing an important facility for the village and hosting a wide variety of activities for all ages. The income from booking fees was down due to the loss of the Lotus Club and the Salsa Classes but in spite of this it was still possible to balance the books. A drop in oil prices and the help provided by Jan and Trevor Marpole with repairs and maintenance were also important factors. The Fete contributed £500 towards the cost of refurbishing the floor but with no other major repairs it was not necessary to ask for funds from other sources. The Parish Council continued to donate £150 per annum towards the Post Office expenses. Artsreach had contributed £358 from the box office and a further £297.50 from refreshments. Artsreach was a great way to publicise the Hall locally and there were a couple of items which would help them improve the venue and which the Committee could consider as expenses which the Fete may like to support. These were an instant water heater and a

roller shutter for the bar/kitchen area; Trevor Marpole agreed to look into the cost of the roller shutter. Although income was likely to be down in the coming year, a shed to house Little Goslings' equipment would improve the look of the Hall and should be considered. The only complaints had been about the clock in the main Hall which had confused the Long Distance Walkers and the Election officials.

TM

Adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jeremy Collins, seconded by Nicki Barker and agreed unanimously.

6. **NOMINATIONS TO THE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FROM USER ORGANISATIONS**

Nominations were as follows:

Lydden Ladies – Jan Marpole
Gardening Club – Viviane Bernhard
Parochial Church Council – Jeremy Collins
Parish Council - Nicki Barker
Artsreach – Katharine Hayens
Village Café – Fizz Lewis
Youth Club – vacant
Toddlers – Kelly Evans
Lunch Club - Susan Moring
BAPS – Trevor Marpole
Young Farmers – Sarah Mitchell
Yoga – Sue Sulkin
Fete Committee – Cathy Shippey
Pilates – Fran Parker
Wayfarers – Helen Simpson
Art Class – Cathy Shippey

The nomination of members above was proposed by Jan Marpole, seconded by Nicki Barker and agreed unanimously.

7. **ELECTION OF OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Ian Scott was proposed by Nicki Barker, seconded by Sue Sulkin and elected unanimously.

8. **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

The appointment of Sharon Calcutt as auditor was proposed by Sue Sulkin, seconded by Nicki Barker and agreed unanimously. The honorarium was agreed at £80.

9. **WORK REQUIRED ON HALL**

The annual summer clean-up was fixed for the Saturday 6th August, subject to confirmation. Items requiring attention included a number of ceiling tiles in the main Hall, the lighting track on the north side of the main Hall and cleaning of the skylights – possibly commercially. The Fire Certificate may need renewing in either August or December.

All Users

10. **ITEMS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.