

MINUTES OF THE PARI SH HALL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER 2014 AT 4.30 P.M. IN THE YEO ROOM

Present: R Parkin (Acting Chairman), L White (Treasurer), C Delafield (Secretary), P Crawford, S Dwyer, M Elliott, J Le Grice, K Livett, P Macdonald, D Martin J Munn and Chris White.

1. Apologies: Marilyn Cater, Neill Irwin, Anna Martin, Mike Stickland. The Chairman welcomed Sue Dwyer who is the new representative of the Bridge Club.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the 1 December meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Events

3.1 (3.3) 2015 Programme

- **Folk 2 – 14 February:** Posters by 14 January and information to go into Feb/Mar ‘Village Voice’ (**Pat C/Midge**). Tickets are £7.50 and there will be a bar with beer and a raffle (**Diane** to apply for the licence; **Chris** to buy supplies; **Jill** and **Judith** will serve). Pat C confirmed that the event will run 7.30 to 11.30pm with a break for the group to eat (meal supplied). Setup will be at 10am and the group will arrive at 7pm. Raffle prizes are needed.
- Tim Abel has amended the line-up for 25 April and will now charge £600 + expenses (**Pat M** to notify details of the new singer when agreed).
- Cleverly Everley confirmed for 6 June (£250).
- Flanders and Swann evening for an October event at £7 per ticket is still to be finalized with Alastair Durden; Words for Voices have declined (**Chris**).
- Racketts date proposed as 16 May was thought to be too close to other events. **Pat M** will discuss with Pat Clarke with early July a possibility.
- Ron wondered if it would be possible to have short presentations by residents who have had adventurous holidays which might of interest to parishioners during the lull in events in March/April. This will be discussed again in February.

3.2 (3.4) **Jill** confirmed that Anna Martin would be happy to join the Committee to promote Buckland/Bantham events but that she had sent her apologies this time.

3.3. There was some discussion about Hall utilization based on figures supplied by Diane. The Main Hall is operating at about 30% occupancy and the Yeo Room fluctuates according to the season. There are two free evenings. Diane wondered if the 11.30pm closing time was deterring some (non-parish/commercial) bookings since most potential users were positive about the facilities. It was agreed that the terms of the licence based on the location in a residential area were a necessary restriction. Diane also said that there had been an increase in the number of children’s birthday parties. Increasing utilization needs further work and discussion on Neill’s return (**Neill**).

Ron pointed out that the terms of the original deed which gifted the land to the parish were that the Hall should be of benefit to the parish of Thurlestone, Bantham and Buckland so that the objective of making money for the maintenance of the building was closely linked with the aims of increasing the involvement of parish residents.

4. Treasurer’s Report

4.1 Lisa handed out Q4 and Q1-4. Variance for 2014 (draft) is +£3152.60 which means that the Hall has made a profit in each of its ten years of operation. A new Budget would be produce for the February meeting (Lisa) including £1,000 for outside painting and some assessment of the need for a new projector (see below 5.11). It was felt that a £40,000 emergency fund was still needed but there is now £52,000 in reserves and £11,000 in the current account. This makes it difficult to consider any increase in Hall hire

rates although it might be possible to consider increasing the cost of commercial lets in order to fund the improvement in the audio-visual equipment.

4.2 There was some discussion of the offer of £75 a year by the Friends of Thurlestone School to offset the cost of new chippings in the car park. It was suggested that this might set a precedent for allowing parking but it has been discovered that some teachers park all day even when there are other events. The Friends have said that only the parents of very young children should be parking here. It was agreed that the school should be reminded that hall events are a priority (and that these should be clearly indicated the day before) and that teacher parking should be discouraged (**Chris**).

4.3 Tom Gilkes of Stanborough Chorus has asked that the group be treated according to their charitable status and charged the lower Hall hire rate. It was agreed that this should be minuted and referred to **Neill**.

5. Maintenance Committee Report

5.1 (5.1) New outside tap is to be fitted in the spring (**Chris**).

5.2 (5.2) Trial of cleaning for the kitchen and toilets at a cost of £300 will begin shortly (**Chris**).

5.3 (5.3) Air handling system filters have been reordered and will be fitted by Danny Baker (**Chris**).

5.4 (5.5) Weeding at front of the Hall to be discussed by the Maintenance Committee (**Chris**).

5.5 (5.6) Perspex strip is to be installed in the Yeo Room (**Chris**).

5.6 (5.11) New LED lights were out of stock and will be reordered (**Chris**).

5.7 A damaged socket has been repaired by Daniel Knight.

5.8 The exterior painting will be about £1,000 (for 2015 Budget).

5.9 **Diane** to reorder J-cloths in Chris's absence.

5.10 Ray would like to give up the role of caretaker as he is nearing 80. Possible successors need to be discussed over the next few months (**Chris**).

5.11 During the meeting there was a presentation of a potential upgrade for the audio-visual system by Tony Marder of Audiovisual Southwest. This consists of at least three improvements ie a new projector (increasing brightness from 3700 to 5500 lumens), rewiring of the cabinet to accommodate same and a Clickshare dongle/button which allows wireless connection of the laptop for presentations. It was clear that the analogue projector was fading and that the new digital version was preferable and in fact less expensive than the original. The whole package, however, would cost over £7,000 and this would need careful consideration as part of the budget/next meeting agenda (**Chris**). Karen proposed thanks to Chris for arranging the presentation.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Pat C showed some photographs of the decoration of the Hall for Val Brown's 80th including well-fitting chair covers, an artificial candelabra and vintage china (from Bigbury). It was felt these could enhance the offering of the Hall for special events.

6.2 A volunteer is needed to take the minutes at the next meeting (**Ron**).

The meeting closed at 6.05 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

The next Committee Meeting will be on Monday 9 February 2015 at 4.30 p.m.