

MINUTES OF GREAT EASTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE
MEETING

Held 25th JANUARY 2023 AT 10.00AM

1. Welcome and Apologies – Happy New Year

Apologies from Vikki Halliday

Present: Tim Smith, Lorna Bryant, AliceMurdock, Louisa Feltham, Margaret Stamp, Kay Mitchell (Minutes)

Meeting started 10.13

2. Matters Arising:

- **Garden Update: Neighbouring Tree (TS)**

John Boulter is currently on holiday in NZ so Tim has been unable to follow up.

Tim will follow up with him when he returns, to see if he can assist with some pruning of the tree that affects the neighbouring property (c/f)

(NB Bob Mitchell/Paul Brittain has some loppers that could possibly do the job)

Kay – new bench (KM) c/f

- **Stage-blocks and Storage (Item 3)**
- **Toilet Refurbishment – completed**
- **Lighting in the Bar area – completed (Cost £959.00)**
- **Lobby Floor – completed (Cost £875.00)**
- **Finance**

Our current total is £17,544.97

i) Tim outlined the increase in energy costs, with the latest gas bill for December reaching £700. Tim has sent an email to Hall users to request they are mindful of the thermostat and that they try and save energy.

We have a new fixed energy contract with SSE – Tim believes they are possibly charging more per unit and there are may be some meter-

reading issues - as a charity we should be paying 5% VAT and we're currently paying 25%.

Tim is following this up with SSE and will refer to the Ombudsman if necessary

ACRE use a different broker. Tim is attending a Web Meeting shortly to learn from other Village Halls how they are managing their energy costs.

ii) Tim raised the question about raising hire charges for 2023. Our last increase was 2015.

Many local venues have already raised their fees to cover rising energy costs. Tim put forward the proposal that we increase by 20%.

(Regular users get a 30% discount)

Proposal to start any increase from March/April – the beginning of the financial year.

Action: Tim to inform our regular Hall users regarding this suggestion and gather their views.

iii) Tim is looking into a Smart App (Hive) which will allow us to control the heating from an App, e.g. setting the heating to come on half an hour before/after a session. There was discussion about how flexible this could be, for example, if there are changes in temperature that can't be altered-too hot/too cold, however there was general agreement that this needs further exploration. **Action TS**

A drastic option may be to close the Hall during winter months. Committee felt this wasn't an option (for now) as the Hall is an important resource for many users.

Tim reminded members that if bills continue at this rate, we will have no funds for improvements and may be unable to meet our bills.

iv) As there is no heating in the Archive Room (who meet weekly for two hours) a fan heater will be provided - **Action AM**

- **Noticeboard for Tradespeople** – at this point it was felt we couldn't progress with this as we have only used Willy Boyd so far!

Staging and Storage Options – LF-GELT/H&S

Louisa reported that she has not had the opportunity to follow this up. She is hoping to start enquiries after February Half Term. This has been an outstanding agenda item since November 2021. Kay put forward the suggestion that we contact some staging providers to ask them to provide a demonstration and a quote.

Action:

LF to enquire with her provider

KM to contact Stack-a-Stage

Details of Mark Howson's suggested provider also to be invited to give a demo.

Stage blocks are still stacked outside. Louisa reiterated these cannot be relocated as she has no transport or storage space. Louisa advised that GELT has installed a long black drape at the rear of the stage, attached onto a batton. A query was raised how this might affect groups who use the projector

3. Fund Raising 2023

- Clare Farrar (TS). Claire (Gt Easton resident) has contacted Tim to ask if she could organise a Christmas Fair at the end of the year. Discussion followed about how this might link with the proposed re-launch of the Christmas Tree Festival
Action: KM to contact Kathy Gibb/Gill Irons to see what plans the Church might have for events at Christmas
- A Quiz Night in November was discussed. This will need catering.
c/f to next meeting
- Coronation Tea Party in May:
Need to know what Parish Council are planning (Action: TS)
- Andy Murdock Photo Exhibition – Andy has (in principle) agreed this.
Action Alice to get a date from Andy – VH will provide tea/refreshments
- There has been a suggestion to organise Open Gardens this year instead of a Summer Fete
Action: KM to contact Kathy Gibb/Teresa Chapman
- Louisa suggested a Family Treasure Hunt with Tea and a Tombola
**A Summer Group was formed, to include AM/KM/LF/LB/MS
Possibly to link with Open Gardens**

4. AOB

- **Gazebo SA/AM (c/f to March 2023)**
- **Water Butts SA c/f**
- **VH History** – Kay read a passage about the history of VH from a booklet found in the Archive. Tim felt this would be good to include on the VH website (**Action KM**)
- **Hive-TS c/f**
- **100 Club Spare Numbers**
Action: Alice to put a notification in the Shop/on Neighbourhood Network
- **Catering Saucepans** – AM reported that first research was a very costly outcome
Action: AM to contact Haylea Smith who has contact
- **Guttering – AM c/f**
- **Rodent Resident**

Alice discovered a hole in the kitchen which backed up into the outside drains, probably created by a rat.

Willy Boyd filled the hole and investigated the drains, however another hole has now emerged.

Willy has put expanding foam into the new hole and laid poison down. (Warning note for Hall users in place).

A further hole has been identified in the VH side wall from the neighbouring property. Alice will set the Garden Gang to clearing the vegetation on that side of the Hall.

Highlight from this is that the drains are now working properly, (following DynaRod action and Willy's intervention)

AM reported an aerosol spray has been provided for the loo and a cleaning kit for the bar area, with a guidance poster to ensure these areas are kept clean

Meeting ended 11.50

5. Date of next meeting – AGM 22 March 2023 10.00 am