

BECKINGTON MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

AGM 2020

Agenda

Date Monday 12th October
7pm – Main Hall

Committee:

Mike Collins (MC), David Norman (DN) - Treasurer, Stan Wilson (SW), Roz Searle (RS), Pam Portsmouth-Layton (PPL), David Prince (DP) – Chairman, Sara Coffield (SC) – Secretary, Debs Byrne (DB); Hannah Drury (HD), Floor Holmes (FH)

1. Present

Floor Holmes, Debs Byrne, Stan Wilson, Roz Searle, Mike Collins, Sara Coffield, David Norman, David Prince.

2. Apologies

Hannah Drury, Pam Portsmouth-Layton

3. Minutes of previous AGM for approval.

The 2019 AGM minutes were accepted by the committee. No action required.

4. Chairman's report.

David Prince, 14th September 2020:

2019 -2020 has been a unique year in the history of the Memorial Hall in that Covid has closed down virtually all activities for six months. We are only just seeing the re-emergence of regular hirers apart from Beckington Cricket Club who have managed some fixtures in the last couple of months. We are indebted to David Norman and Stan Wilson who have spent a lot of time putting together the Hall Covid protocols and health and safety policies to make the return of hirings possible.

November 2019 saw the enforced cancellation of Fireworks Night because of bad weather after a lot of preparation by Stan Wilson and his subcommittee. Fortunately this was followed by an outstandingly successful panto by the Beckington Players which brought a handsome profit donated to the Hall and a well-attended evening of opera in February when the White Horse Opera's production of The Mikado in St. George's church was much enjoyed. Our thanks to Debs Burns, Pam Portsmouth-Layton and Roz Searle for running this and the church wardens for their very helpful support. Since then, sadly, no events have been possible and this year's Fireworks and Panto have had to be cancelled.

All this has placed a strain on Hall finances but we have been helped by generous Government grants which have kept us going. Despite the lack of hiring income we have managed to complete several maintenance jobs. A new heater has at last been fitted in the Clifford suite, we have replaced the sagging section of the perimeter fence with a post and rail and we have fitted a new keypad system in the main Hall and Clifford suite. The need for the latter was partly caused by the demands of our insurers and the much felt loss of Gary Peters, our Booking Secretary, whose sterling service over a number of years we have much valued.

In his place we are employing Sara Coffield who is running the booking system and also acting as Hall Secretary and Archivist. At this point I should like to thank the Committee for their hard work and

support - David Norman as Treasurer, those already mentioned in this report and Mike Collins our excellent choir representative. We have also been joined by Hannah Drury from Springmead and Floor Holmes representing Beckington Players. Despite these welcome additions we still need new blood and we have also lost the valued services of Ian Morris to whom we owe many thanks. In the continuing absence of a younger volunteer, I have agreed to continue for one more year as Chairman.

And for the future? Who knows? Once we have a clearer picture of future hiring and events income we would like to replace the unattractive and deteriorating high fencing along the Bath Road boundary of the field. Redecoration of the main Hall and Clifford is due and the lavatories and changing areas will soon need modernisation. The Play Area remains a concern. It passed its ROSPA inspection this July but insurance and H&S issues will increasingly demand renewal and replacement; the considerable cost of which is well beyond the Hall's finances and will need some form of community fund raising to achieve.

Let us hope that the post-Covid era will see these requirements realised.

The committee were happy with the report.

5. Treasurer's report

David Norman – 12th October 2020

As can be seen from the financial information, having received £20K of grants due to Covid-19, we have made a profit of just under £9K - which therefore represents a loss of £11K before the grant, compared to about a £3K operating profit last year. This is partly (£5K) down to the amount we have spent on major projects over and above our fundraising, and partly (about £10K) due to Covid pandemic having reduced our income much more than our expenditure.

At this point, we have about £25K in the bank, and our basic outgoings are £750-£1000 per month, so we can easily sustain another year of this without any concerns. However, we are starting to have bookings again, and the sooner the hall can get back to operating at break-even, the more of the grant money we will be able to retain long-term and use for major projects to improve the hall. However, we do not know how long this will go on for, and until we do, we must minimise the cost of the hall to give it the best chance of being able to remain solvent until the pandemic ends.

I have had a query about why the cost of our utilities has not reduced due to the pandemic. Possibilities include that our gas use is mostly for heating during the winter, so has not been significantly impacted, and that our bills have been based on estimated readings. We have also recently moved to a new supplier which has changed our prices, which may have had an impact. I need to look into this.

Questions raised:

The committee queried rate rebate due to covid19 but DN thinks it's easier to leave as is and get a rebate off the next payment.

The BMH had purchased £1400-worth of fireworks.

ACTION - DB to call Peter to find out the shelf life and ask for them to be marked "Property of Beckington Memorial Hall" just in case the company providing them goes into receivership.

FH suggested that the Beckington Players events could be held in Jane Slade's barn to raise money for BMH with hampers in the spring? DN relayed that there are people we know who could be asked to provide a sound system. It was also suggested that a few fireworks from the box could be used for this cause.

SW queried the high gas and electricity costs currently when the hall is not being used a lot due to covid19 restrictions.

ACTION – DN to check gas and electric costs.

It was queried whether someone can check the bins on Sundays to see if we can reduce the regularity now that winter is drawing in.

ACTION – someone local to check status of bins.

Booking Status due to Covid 19

DN reported: current bookings: 26 hours / £454 in the next month, compared with last year @ 74 / £1024

6 Election of Committee

Chairman

Nominated: David P

Proposed: MC

Seconded: Debs

Elected

Vice Chair

No nominations

Treasurer

Nominated: DN

Proposed: DP

Seconded: SW

Elected with the caveat: DN ok commit for now but recently made redundant and future unclear.

Booking Secretary

Sara Coffield to continue

Committee members

Nominated: SW

Proposed: RS

Seconded: DP

Elected

Nominated: PPL

Proposed: DB

Seconded: RS

Elected

IM has resigned from the committee.

DB has now also left the committee but willing to make fabulous food for events!

RS (WI), FH (Beckington Players), HD (Springmead School) and MC (Choir) are also on the committee.

7. AOB

None