

BECKINGTON MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

Minutes

Date: 9th August 2021 – Clifford Suite

1. Present

David Prince (Chairman), Stan Wilson, David Norman (Treasurer), Floor Holmes, Sara Coffield (Secretary), Mike Collins, David Costello, Jeanette Hurst

2. Apologies

Hannah Drury, Roz Serle

3. Minutes of meeting 12/7

The minutes were ratified by the committee. No amendments required.

4. Matters Arising:

Old TV and radiator removal.

SW informed the committee that the TV has been taken to the dump and radiator is now in the loft. Two office chairs were also identified as being superfluous in the Clifford Suite – one was broken and taken to the dump and it was agreed that the other would remain.

WI Bench/Tree

The WI would like to plant a tree to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee (they previously thought of a bench but feel they are unlikely to be able to raise the funds for this). Would the committee be agreeable to the WI planting a tree on the site. If yes – where would it go and what type of tree?

The committee discussed where to have a tree and decided it would be far more useful to try and raise some money for a bench.

Action: DP to contact RS

Gas and PAT inspections.

SW reported that there will be a PAT test on 27th August.

DN reported that AN Heating will be checking the gas on 18th August.

Cricket club container.

DN reported that the cricket club are now looking for an alternative source for the container.

MC asked if it will blend in and DN reported that it will be hedge green.

5. Finance Report.

200 Club membership and August draw.

DN reported that the number of 200-Club members has risen from 41 to 56 people with 3 levels of cash prizes (£50/25/10). DC suggested proactively promoting the 200 Club with the cricket club members.

Action: DC to promote the 200 Club amongst cricket club members

The 200 Club winners were chosen.

DN produced the latest Income and Expenditure figures and reported that the very expensive water bill is still unresolved. DP reported that the cause of the high bill could be due to a shower found running and he has talked to some plumbers about it. SW suggested waiting for a stable situation to compare the water usage. The committee agreed to go back to a procedure recommended by the water company.

Action: SW has a copy of the procedure and will arrange with DP to do the procedure in due course.

Having a More Permanent Bar at the BMH

DP reported that he has been speaking to the Batcombe village hall manager about their profitable bar with pizza nights etc and asked the committee if the BMH should do something similar to raise more money for the hall? The committee raised concerns about storing stock and staffing.

6. Maintenance.

Play Area Repairs.

DN produced the latest RoSPA report. Low risk corrosion has been reported and so the committee questioned whether it was something that the members could deal with or would it need professionals? It was concluded that DC had the tools, skill and goodwill.

Action: DC to liaise with DN and deal with corrosion

It was also reported that...

The sign is fading so DN offered to make up a new sign but requested help with the outside frame.

Action: DN to make new sign

There is a missing foothold

Action: DC to sort the foothold

The seesaw bolts are loose

Action: the committee need to find someone with a mobile welding kit needed. FH to call her friend.

There is chain wear on the swing

Action: DN to buy chains from supplier

Fingers can be trapped on the gate

Action: DC to buy rubber spacers and fix them to the gate

The stair tread is missing

Action: DN to contact supplier

DN reported that the toddler swing has been repaired by Phil Hillman.

Redecoration Issues.

DP reported that he has compiled a list of jobs to do with SW.

DP also reported that a seemingly superfluous long cylindrical heater was switched on in the changing rooms.

It was questioned whether it is worth sorting the changing rooms out but the Clifford Suite needs decorating when the colour is decided.

Action: DN to find the previous paint receipts to see if the colour of the paint is on them. DP to speak to John Hancock. FH to paint the main hall with MC. DC to do the Clifford Suite after the end of cricket season (September).

Cleaning Materials for Showers and Clifford.

DP reported that he has spoken to the cleaner about providing cleaning materials but when DN checked, there was nothing in the Clifford Suite WC.

Action: DP to chase the cleaner

Water heater in the ladies' WC.

DP reported that this has been mended.

Lavatory in shower area.

DP reported that this has been mended.

Action: DN to check all the jobs have been done.

7. BCC Proposal

SW had a meeting with Simon Attwell and John Bennett, Vice Chairman of the Cricket Club. He has put up markers in the agreed terms with areas needing further details. The conclusion is to go ahead with the planning application as the BMH committee is generally in support of things; nothing is stopping them as they don't need to have any ownership of the land.

The committee are happy with the cricket club's ideas and supporting youngsters/community.

It was reported that the lawyers are charging the hall and the BMH will bill the cricket club.

SW concluded that the BMH have highlighted concerns with the cricket club and a sub-group will meet again and once decided we will contact their solicitors.

DP requested that the committee is kept in the loop.

Action: Sub group to meet again and contact the solicitors.

8. Fundraising and Events.

DP produced a church fundraising leaflet and raised his concerns on competition. He also queried whether the BMH should concentrate on the odd big event or a steady income.

MC suggested a closer relationship between the panto and village hall instead of separate banking etc. DP reported that a legal requirement had closed the gap – a sub-committee of the hall 20 years ago.

MC suggested raising the cost of the hall. DN reported that we are in line with price of other halls and that the reduced rate for locals was in the hope that they would also help to run the hall.

DP raised his concerns on the future of fundraising events.

SW questioned how the Party in the Field begin and DN relayed that the Village Day was struggling so the BMH, Cricket Club, Pre-school and Tennis Club pulled together.

MC questioned whether the fireworks were going ahead. DP reported that we still have £1500-worth of fireworks for November 2022.

DP reported that the play area needs replacing and that the BMH cannot accept responsibility although there is grant for cutting the grass available.

DP reported that the BMH have never really looked for grants.

DN reported that Simon Pritchard from Mendip mentioned a grant available for matting but the timescales were too tight for us to be able to put an application together.

Action: Recruit someone for grant application.

Wi-fi installation.

DN reported that it has not been installed yet but apparently BT Openreach is overwhelmed.

Action: DN to chase wifi installation

White Horse Opera.

MC reported that the WHO loved performing at Beckington Church and plan to have their next event at the church, which means that the money raised will go to the church.

9. Future Dates.

The AGM was confirmed to be held separately on 25th October in the Clifford Suite.

10. AOB.

Future Membership Status Discussion and Vacancies in Key Offices.

DP reported that we don't have a Vice Chairman or a volunteer Booking Secretary and offices need to be filled.

It was queried whether volunteers need to become Trustees and SW relayed that previously there were subcommittees, the members of which were not Trustees.

MC queried the non-attendance of reps from the regular users - choir, keep fit, camera club, WI, lunch club etc

DP suggested finding an easier model that will encourage folk to get involved.

FH suggested a separate sub-committee for fundraisers

Action: simplify the system and encourage regular users to join the committee

Network

DP reported that we need a new "scribe" for the Network magazine updates.

Title deeds:

DN reported that they might be in the County Archives.

Charity commission

DN reported that the charity commission report is late again and needed clarification on who are the BMH Trustees.

JH and DC were advised by DN to look up the Trustee responsibilities on the Charity Commission website and encouraged to become one.

Next meeting: Monday 13th September @ 7pm in the Clifford Suite