

Village Centre Committee Meeting (with public forum)

Thursday 7th August (draft)

In Attendance- Chris Lord, Fred Furber, Megan Parker, Paul A Lashmar, Susan Cole, Paul J Lashmar

Chair-Chris Lord

Mins-Susan Cole

Apologies- No Apologies received

Public Concerns- A Village member wanted to put her concern's regarding the electrical safety of the Village Hall as she is aware that some electrical work has been carried out by unqualified persons, she suggests a new electrical inspection should be carried out.

This was discussed and the committee will obtain 3 quotes for this before employing someone to carry this out. She also suggested the damp patch on ceiling within main hall which has been there for sometime, be investigated before any redecorating is done.

This same resident of the village also stated that she would like to see the clock up and running, several others agreed and this will be investigated at the nearest opportunity.

She wrote a letter expressing these concerns and the letter will be filed along with the minutes and visited at a later date, when these issues have been addressed.

Fred Furbar has noted that the weathercock above the clock needs sealing as there is water ingress. This will be checked when the clock is investigated.

Another villager pointed out the lack of villagers not using the website and not using the hall. Paul regularly puts posts on the site to remind villagers of events, bingo bar etc. Talked about ways to encourage more villagers to use site.

Fred pointed out the need for another signatory for the hall bank account, he has been experiencing trouble getting change from bank as he is not a signatory, Pete Jackson is a signatory, Carol Ramsey and Ian Cruikshank are signatory's but this needs to change .

A member of the village community pointed out that the treasurer should have the cheque book. This was agreed and a visit to Nat West will be planned.

-Keys, although not on agenda, the issue of key holders was raised, as the Chairman does not have a set of keys and after a suspicious noise late the previous evening, the chairman walked round to the hall to investigate, but could not enter and had to wait for keyholder.

The Keys should be held by the appropriate members, Carol Ramsey holds a set of keys and she does not need them so Ian will be asked to collect the keys from her. It is far too expensive to replace the locks.

-minutes agreed

-Finances- Paul presented the accounts for 24/25, Previous treasurer resigned mid financial year and Paul has worked hard to bring everything up to date, it appears the centre made a loss of £2,400 in 24/25 mainly due to the maintenance expenditure. He presented the accounts to independent advisor with

intention of submitting to charity commission in next two weeks. All agreed the format was much more 'clear cut' and easy to understand. Accounts attached.

Paul explained total balance of £10,934.60 on 31st July 2025 showing a minimal profit on this time last year. July made £831 profit

There were several accounting mistakes from previous months. Paul is working on rectifying these. And some money has already been refunded.

-Fraud Case-we have been advised that the police are not taking any further action regarding the suspected Fraud case brought against previous committee members and associates, due to lack of evidence.

-Paul explained the process for expenses not covered by cash held in safe, these should be costed and voted on and trustees will provide a cheque as long as the expense is necessary and not putting hall in jeopardy financially.

-Batemans missed a direct debit in July therefore Aug bill appears inflated.

-Fred and Paul will order Gas for Bar and investigate a potential leak on valve(beer lines)

-Events- Cher tickets are selling slowly but promise of more sales on the door, we need to explore more events and hall rentals.

-Bar Rota-Please check bar rota on cellar door put your name down for any cover you can do. We have events booked for Aug 12th,14th,20th, Sept 6th, 19th,28th and Nov 15th for 70s night.

-Committee bar discount-Clarity was needed around bar discount for committee members, only committee members receive the discount on only their own drinks. The Bingo caller is to receive free drink.

-Hall Blitz Day-it was agreed that a day should be arranged for all committee and volunteers to come in, clean tidy, sort, do minor repairs and report on maintenance issues. It was suggested 4th Oct

-Play Area-Parish Clerk confirmed the play area is the responsibility of VC. Further investigation is needed as is listed as parish council asset and they are paying the insurance for it.

-Date for AGM- provisional date agreed of 9th Oct

-Next Committee Meeting- Thurs 11th.

-AOB-Fred pointed out we have 80+ floor tiles that were given to hall for conservatory flooring, no longer needed so suggested we sell on Facebook Marketplace.

ACTIONS- Fred and Paul to find electricians x3 to obtain quotes for electrical safety check.

Ian to collect hall keys from Carol.

All push 'Cher' tickets and promote hall for events, community use etc.

All check bar rota and put name to any shifts they are able to cover.

Investigate adding another signatory to Bank Account.