

Sopley Parish Hall Committee Meeting

11th February 2025 7.00p.m.

Minutes

Present: Caroline Paul, Katie Hughes, Imogen Fidler, John Eccles, Cynthia Hiscock, Sue Lister, Norman Hiscock, Rosie Ward.

Apologies: Nick Hill, Kit West.

Matters Arising:

To be covered in meeting

Treasurers Report:

Full report circulated by John

Opening Nat West bank balance on 1st January = £12029.42

Total income = £1144.46

Total expenditure = £896.85

Surplus = £274.61

Closing bank balance on 30th January = £12277.03

Helped along by our own successful Skittles event and numerous private hirings, we did manage to achieve a small surplus during the month.

However, we saw slightly below average income from our regular users, along with the unfortunate loss of Sandra Chantrell and her Cosy Corner School of Yoga who are no longer able to use the hall due to the recently introduced access restrictions.

The costs for the HH Section 143 work have now been paid in full using the money previously put aside in the PW loan account, along with a small (£307) balance taken from the current account.

We intend to continue paying £150 per month into the PW loan account in order to finance the future payments towards the phase 2 project costs.

The next instalment of £1345 is due in September 2025.

Events:

- The quiz went well and was well supported. It appeared to go on longer than was necessary so in future a finishing time will be given to the quizmaster.
- Information on the Clairvoyant for the March event was not available therefore it is unlikely the committee will put on an event.
- April 4th Bingo. Katie's dad will as usual run the event. **Action:** Katie to print posters.
- 16th May Barn Dance. Jackie Foyle (a W.I. Member) and her family have kindly volunteered to play for a Barn Dance to raise funds for the hall. Tickets will cost £5.00. **Action:** Katie will print posters.

- May 17th V.E. celebrations 2-6 in hall. The next planning meeting will be held at the Woolpack on 3rd March. For the event Lucy at the Woolpack will make cupcakes. Cynthia will donate VE flag. Kit will organise and run the raffle, Katie will be responsible for the door. Suggestion there is a donations box for refreshments
- Village Fair. Caroline is still waiting for Liz Shulter to get back to her re discussion on holding a joint event with Sopley Village School. **Action:** Sue to let brass band know date has changed.

Hall Bookings:

There will be a loss of revenue from hall users as a result of the encroachment work. One hirer has already gone cancelled their bookings and another of the regular users is looking elsewhere.

Review cost of hall hire. **Action:** Rosie to bring information she has gathered to next meeting.

Bookings Manager. This vital position will need to be filled when Imogen moves out of Sopley.

Building Maintenance:

Heaters: Further discussion on the heating system for the hall is required as to whether to repair the heater which is currently not working and a replacement will cost £5k or replace the system with something new.

Update on outside ramp. Bollards appeared without any reference to the hall committee or the Parish Council and this action has caused great anger amongst committee members as well as with hall users who were also not aware this was happening. Going forward the plan is once the grass has taken the bollards will be removed. The bollard keys are to be kept in the key safe.

Emergency evacuation hazard tape to be removed by committee as it is blocking the emergency evacuation route.

Health and Safety:

Risk Assessment requires reviewing. **Action:** Caroline to review

Any Other Business:

After 20 years John is stepping down as a Trustee and also resigning from the committee. Together with Imogen standing down as a Trustee and leaving the committee their commitment and willingness to go above and beyond is a great loss to the committee and its ability to fully function. Additional volunteers will be needed and discussions on how we can recruit will be required to plan for the future.

Grants sub group: Cynthia, Sue & Rosie have got together with the aim of applying for funding for heating. As part of this process Rosie has obtained details of the local population via a Freedom of Information request the details of which will hopefully help in any applications we make. Some applications give priority to venues which are part of a Community Emergency Plan, the hall is not part of a specific plan but a question has been asked by Hampshire Council's Emergency Planning Group if we would like to be considered for this. I explained we were a very small group but asked for the information. This maybe something we might consider for the future? **Action:** Cynthia, Rosie, Sue and Katie to meet on 25th Feb

It has been brought to our attention that a licence is required to advertise on verges, as we have not heard this directly from Hampshire Highways John has tried contacting them without luck and has now sent them an email to clarify this.

Next Meeting: 17th March 7.00