

Minutes of the Birdham Village Hall Trustees on Tuesday, October 10th 2017

The meeting commenced at 19:30 hrs

1. Present

Gordon Churchill (GC), Ian Divers (ID), Sandie Divers (SDI), Alan Drew (AD), Betty Geary (BG), Barry Richardson (BR), Mike Thomas (MT), Brian Wheeler (BW).

2. Apologies

Richard Bird, Marie Geary, Fiona Thomas.

3. Minutes of the Meeting on 11th July 2017

The Minutes of the meeting on 11/7/17 were agreed with a follow up question. BW asked if monies had been received regarding the grant application put forward to West Wittering Estates? MT confirmed that nothing else had been heard. Brian confirmed that a grant has been received from West Wittering Estates by the Bowls Club. Acknowledged that this may indicate that charitable donations have been distributed by West Wittering Estates and that BVH was not included at this time.

Update from MT – BVH monies invested in an Investment Fund with several units invested with a small return for investment. Discussion as to how many units are used and confirmation that a cheque is supplied annually. Changing suppliers had previously been investigated and confirmed by former Treasurer, Owen, that the return was approximately £38 per annum and not worth changing due to the complicated process.

4. Matters arising from Minutes of last meeting

SDI updated that she had subscribed to the Parliament website to receive updates and keep current. There may also be the opportunity to take a short, free course to find out more about Parliament and this is available for anyone who wishes to take it through the Future Learn MOOC (Massive Open Online Course).

5. Chairman's Report

Ian welcomed all present to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Items discussed:

- Invoice to Carer's has been sent by Ian and 'non-deliverable' reply received. MT confirmed that once right person identified, invoices are always paid promptly. **Action: ID**
- CHUBB Engineer has confirmed that some fire extinguishers will need updating and replacing in BVH, as a matter of course. Engineer has suggested that BVH do not pay the current bill (ID has notified Fiona not to pay) and that the next visit by CHUBB in early autumn will involve replacing relevant fire extinguishers when all works can be completed at the same time; for servicing and replacing. All agreed.
- ID has been in touch with CAF bank who has sent through documents to be able to pay in cheques via the local Post Office, but not cash. Cash can be paid in to HSBC in Chichester. ID to arrange collection and deposits regularly. ID to liaise with Fiona if/as required. **Action: ID**
- Update: Changing banks to move away from CAF Bank has previously been investigated and is onerous and not going to be progressed. AD and ID met to arrange signatures for account. Discussion regarding requesting payment by cheque to support paying in locally (BW);

however, acknowledged that cheques infrequently used; therefore currently not worth specifying.

- Noted: Payment has been made and a receipt received for advertising in Parish Magazine. Receipt to be forwarded to FT. **Action: ID**
- MG has requested to have a social club fundraising with consideration of room hire rates. Discussion of a regular users' rate and supporting of a fund-raising occasion to be considered on own merit within the current room hire rate charges policy without setting a precedent.
- ID confirmed that the bill has been received for the BVH website and name (£17). The annual bill for supporting the website externally, including software updates to support it was £170. Next year the bill will be approximately £140; the year after approximately £175. ID has paid the bill and been reimbursed.
- Discussion re deadline for putting figures on the Charity Commission website. **Action: ID/MT**

6. Treasurer's Report

FT has sent apologies and details passed to MT for this meeting. FT hopes to attend the next meeting and give a full update.

Current status:

- Standard account: £9,926.06. Approximately £3,000 to be banked. £5,000 to be transferred to Gold account. **Action: ID/FT**
- Business Premium account: £15,000 - interest paid into current account.
- Gold account: £35,090.84 including interest (£0.64) added on 26/6/17; further interest to be paid soon.

MT noted electricity bill due soon; current contract runs until November 2018. ID has received calls from potential suppliers who may be touting for business. MT noted that the business deals are difficult to negotiate, and the 3-year deal was the best one to do at the time. GC discussed that a one-year contract may be better. MT confirmed that the time to negotiate and establish a deal is time consuming and a one-year contract provides a very short amount of time before securing a further contract. Agreed that the 3-year deal seemed the best contract for BVH; day rate and night rate (storage heaters) is also a consideration. BR asked about SMART meter possibilities within business contracts; this can be followed up when the contract is due for renewal.

7. Secretary's Report

None.

8. Birdham Parish Council

- BR updated re new playground equipment. Work has commenced and confirmed that original money applied for and received has supported new equipment with further monies being allocated for another piece of equipment to be placed as part of ongoing updates to the play area. Once this has been done, the fence can be extended and the rest of the play area updated. New signs to be provided to cover issues with dog fouling etc.
- BR updated on goal post situation. Further discussions ongoing as to requirements for maximum benefit and use. Parish council newsletter to go out soon with the question to be asked as to preference/what will be required. Five a side pitch for children could be considered with flooding to be taking into consideration when siting any posts etc.

- Ball Wall – BR inquired as to when the original placement had been made? BR has researched Council Minutes back to 2011 currently to locate a more precise date; may need to research further back. BG suggested 2009-2010. MT to contact Jan Rees to see if Jan can remember. MT to update ID. **Action: MT**
- Discussion regarding the extra land that was bequeathed to the Parish for use as part of the Recreation ground area; BR will need to find our village requirements for use.

9. Any Other Business

- Village Hall Booking system discussed. Noted that St James Church and Birdham Village Hall are not in competition but considering the potential for a shared calendar/diary to avoid clashes which would be supportive for both parties, as previously noted. BR mentioned software by Hallmaster (a Village Hall Booking System) which can be shared and run via website(s), however interface will require computer access by all. This is currently not available. Noted that Action in Rural Sussex receives a discount on the software which is currently £130 a year. BR to send a link to ID for a free trial. **Action: BR**
- Plans for potential extensions to BVH on hold for now – due to cost.
- BW noted a broken gutter in the centre of the hall. Plants have been cut down and the sill is now black and needs tidying up. Noted that the state of walls in the hall require freshening; potential to use washable paint as an extra coat to brighten up. **Action: ID**
- BW noted the state of some chairs. BG confirmed that there are 50 new chairs in the alleyway and these are available to use by BR and to keep the standard of the hall to maximum benefit. MT noted the folding chairs; BR confirmed these are too low.
- Information noted by ID regarding email received from a musician in north-west regarding potential hall hire during March-May 2018. The following quote is from their website (<https://www.musicglue.com/howdenjones/>):

“No Halls Barred’ was a message to say they will play anywhere where people gather to meet, chat, laugh, socialise, enjoy listening to live music, joining in, and singing along. Their show works in any intimate setting at the heart of the community, bringing together a celebration of place, people of all ages, and creating an inclusive musical and social experience. They have travelled all over the country and 2016’s Spring tour saw them visiting and playing at 26 venues across 11 counties.

2017 sees a Call to the Halls to share this experience and celebration of the halls with them! A pint of Real Ale, a glass of wine, even a hearty supper and a musical journey of sweet gentle harmonies, driving rhythms, and exquisite melody as your appetiser.

Howdenjones’ show can be an opportunity to fundraise, for a village get together, or just a night out amongst friends where you don’t have to drive! Whatever your reason to celebrate, it emphasises the importance of our village hall networks all over the country, of all the people cherishing and looking after their village halls with a pride in their history, their buildings, their activities and achievements, and their valuable place in the community. Join Us.”

ID to pass the information on to MG which could link in to a Social Club event and would require tickets to be sold through the social club and advertised on the website. **Action: ID**

10. Date of Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 20:35 hrs. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th January 2018 at 19:30 hrs.