



Worth Matravers Village Hall Minutes of the Trustee meeting 18.00 20th October 2016

Chairman Nick Viney
Treasurer John Hynan
Trustees Hugh Cochrane, Jack Ross, Charles O'Reilly, Mark Hill

Apologies Jenny Hynan & Adrian Wood

The Chairman noted that since the last meeting Jerry Burden had resigned. The committee recorded its thanks to Jerry for his work on behalf of the Village Hall for the past at least 10 years

Many thanks to Charles for taking the notes.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting

It has become apparent that not all the Trustees were entirely aware of their role and responsibilities on the Management Committee of the Village Hall and few had received the original governing Trust documents. John Hynan agreed to circulate these by email. It was also agreed that all new Trustees should be given a copy of the Charity Commission Trust document.

Jack Ross said that there was a misrepresentation of his comments about the fete at the last meeting, namely that unless specified in advance, all funds from the fete should go to the Village Hall. Prior agreement to re-allocate distribution is a different and separate matter that is entirely permissible. His concern was that the opposite seemed to have been expressed, viz that all funds from the fete should be allocated to other than the Village Hall.

Village Hall status, governance, finances and direction

Given the recent discussions about the distribution of fete and event funds, and the responsibilities of the Trustees and the recent enquiries into other forms of ownership such as CIOs etc a discussion was held about the wider responsibilities and options for the Trust.

To re-iterate the Church gave the Village the School House and Village Hall in 1950 for the benefit of the village. A Trust was set up to hold and maintain the assets. This was renewed in 1998 under the governance of the Charities Commission. Against this background three questions were raised; Could the

Trustees employ other Trustees to do works on behalf of the Trust, what was the liability of the Trustees, and could or should the Trust widen its objectives

Advice had been given by Tim Rutherford of Stone King that Trustees could be appointed to do paid work for the Trust provided the Trustees could show that such work is “in the best interest of the Charity, have a written agreement, and be sure the terms are appropriate”.

The Trust has an insurance policy to protect its Trustees from legal action, which reduced the need for limited liability, but it was crucial to remind Trustees that they each have a public and legal responsibility which they must understand and to which they must adhere.

Consideration was also given to the reports made by the solicitors regarding CIO status. Tim Rutherford's advice was that a move to CIO would achieve little without a complicated arrangement which would be prohibitively expensive. His alternative solution, though less expensive, was considered by the meeting to be an unjustifiable cost for a limited benefit.

After years of careful stewardship the trust now has satisfactory reserves given that the overhaul of the roof has now been completed. Reserves were held against unexpected works, perhaps including two years loss of rent from the School House (say in the event of rebuilding following a fire or similar event) and an equivalent loss of two year's income from the other sources. JH produced exemplary figures with added insight from Hugh Cochrane to look at the historical position and whether reserves needed to be built at the same rate. It was agreed that rental demand for School House was very strong and the PASH income was relatively secure. That being the case the Trustees considered whether it would be better to forgo a proportion of the Fete income and divert that income to other village or charitable purposes rather than change the legal status of the existing Trust.

As has been referred to in previous meetings so long as the recipients of the profits generated by the village Fete are advertised in advance there is no restriction on how and where they can be distributed. It was noted that those who provided the backbone of works undertaken to make the Fete a success would like to see funds go to wider village causes. It was therefore resolved to give the organizing committee of the Fete the responsibility of identifying the causes to be supported at the next Fete in clear advance of the 2017 Fete and such proposals should be reported back to the Trust. It was also suggested that the Fete Organiser should be a member of this committee so there is regular opportunity to exchange views, ideas and information.

In the course of this debate Mark Hill flagged the PR problem we had had in retaining the Fete profits for the VH. MH felt that the new proposals would more than adequately address this issue.

It was therefore agreed that the existing Trust status should be maintained but that the Fete income would be distributed across a wider range of activities so as to support the aims of those who ran the event and to avoid accruing reserves beyond those reasonably required by the Village Hall.

Village Hall Maintenance; schedule of works

Bins; recycling bins should be labeled and put out with domestic bins if necessary
Projector; quotes should be obtained for a second hand laptop or projector and laptop combination to provide a better experience for users of the Hall.

Twinkling lights; should be replaced as proposed by Tim Arnold. It was suggested that it would be neater if the supply cable went to a new wall socket or via trunking to the existing socket

Sockets; it was proposed that Julian Harris be asked to quote for the installation of new socket points in the centre of the hall floor (eg for the projector/laptop) and midway up the wall for the twinkling lights.

Extension leads; JR/HC suggested that there was at least 1 in the shed (the mower lead) if not 2 but otherwise a purchase was in order

Xmas tree; Yes. PC to be asked for usual contribution

De-fibrillator; HC had been able to get a better quote than Harman's Cross so Tim was asked to pursue it. It was also suggested that the Parish Council should make the whole purchase and we make a donation to them so as to use the most efficient tax environment.

Snooker cues etc; Tim Hoad to be asked exactly what quality and sizes were required before a purchase was made. HC also suggested that a larger table could be bought on ebay if required.

Double Glazed Doors; it was believed that Gary Snook installed them and that he should be asked to ease them

Lighting upstairs and stairwell; it was suggested that Julian Harris quote for a similar system as is currently used in the Committee room.

Outside Lights; ideally both outside lights should be capable of being turned on by the switches at either door or even by a low sensitive sensor. Julian to advise

General Maintenance; Gutters needed realigning, some additional internal painting, replacement of flat vents, appliance tests and a school house assessment were all in hand with Tim Arnold and Jerry Burden

JR asked that Mark Norman be requested to clear grass and other growth from between the paving stones and in the gutters outside the hall as it was becoming a slip hazard.

The next meeting was proposed for 18.00 12th January 2017

There being no other business the meeting was closed