

Bruisyard Village Hall Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.30pm on 10 January 2022 in Bruisyard Village Hall

Present: Thelma Barham (TB), Kevin Chattell - Treasurer (KC), Paul Church (PC), David Goode (DG), Albert Lain (AL), Anne Smith - Chairman (AS), David Smith - Secretary (DS)

Apologises: Miranda Campbell (MC), Margaret Sinclair (MS)

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November and the interim meeting on 6 December were agreed.

2. Matters arising

Actions on seeking volunteer(s) for film nights (ALL), brand and colour of paint for touching up interior walls (PC), and low water pressure on outside tap (DS) were ongoing. All other actions had been done or were agenda items for the meeting.

DS had been in contact with Dawn Simpson regarding the arrangements for the Bruisyard cribbage team. DS had explained that the current informal arrangement would continue to the end of the mid-Suffolk cribbage season which ends in April but was seeking to formalise the arrangement for the season starting September 2022 so that it would be a regular secured booking for the team. DS confirmed to Dawn that the Village Hall was delighted to continue to host the cribbage team and would be pleased to come to an arrangement with the team that secured the regular booking for them and was fair to both parties. Dawn said she would discuss this with her husband, Michael Simpson who is the team captain and the other team members and get back to DS. DS noted that any agreement reached with the cribbage team was dependent on PC continuing his generous offer to man the bar on Tuesday evenings without charge.

DS had left several phone messages with the other cribbage team captain, Neil Armstrong but had not received a reply to date.

3. Finance report

KC reported that the current bank balance was £16988. Since the meeting in November, £2.5k had been spent on maintenance/repairs and a grant of £2k had been received from BSAC towards the cost of the new terrace. All noted that further payments would be due before the next meeting for maintenance/repairs as covered below.

KC mentioned that actions were in hand to transfer the treasurer role to DS for the start of the next financial year in April. The Barclays Bank mandate change request forms were handed to DS to complete. The online banking authorisation would also be changed subsequently. DS confirmed that he would take on the treasurer role with effect from 1 April 2022 and would therefore step down as secretary at that time but would be happy to continue as booking secretary for the Hall if the committee agreed as this was closely linked to being treasurer. DS mentioned that the work of booking secretary was now largely automated.

4. Maintenance and repairs

AS reported that the heating engineer contracted to repair and update the underfloor heating system would do the work on Friday 28 January. The cost would be £1031.76.

DS said that the gate post at the car park entrance had been repaired by P Emeny. An oak post had been installed. An invoice for £230 was expected from Mr Emeny in the next few days.

AS on MC's behalf covered the quotation received from Binder Ltd to add a plastic riser to the round cesspool manhole to raise the height by 6 inches. Two layers of bricks on new benching would be laid and the frame and cover renewed. The quote was for £589.79+vat. The aim is to prevent the ingress of surface water into the cesspool. All agreed that this work should be done. AS did however raise concerns that this may not be a complete solution to the problem and that ground water ingress from a break or misalignment of the input pipe may be a contributing cause. This would be looked at when the plastic riser was installed. AS would contact MC to get the work done by Binder's.

ACTION: AS,MC

KC reported on the continuing delays in getting the push bar fitted to the fire exit door by Abbey Fire and Security. A new survey would be done by the company to make sure that the correct parts were ordered.

AS mentioned that the soil moved to the west side of the Hall following the terrace installation had a large number of stones. Kindlewood had raised this as a problem for grass cutting and the high likelihood that the window on the west face being broken again. All agreed to help in picking up the stones on Saturday morning 26 February starting at 9am – weather permitting. Friends and family would also be very welcome – the more that were available to help, the quicker and easier the task would be.

ACTION: ALL

5. Village Hall events

AL thanked MC for preparing an excellent poster for the talk by Matt Tanton-Brown on 'The Poison Garden' planned for Saturday 19 February. The date for the talk was discussed and concern was raised that it may be too early due to the ongoing Covid pandemic and that it should be rescheduled for Saturday 2 April, dependent of course on the speaker's availability. An alternative date of Saturday 9 April was proposed as a back up. AL agreed to contact Matt Tanton Brown to see if the date for the talk could be changed.

ACTION: AL

AL would contact MC to update the poster as follows;

- New date when agreed with Matt Tanton Brown
- The time 7.00 for 7.30pm to be in larger font
- Delete 'in aid of Bruisyard Social Amenities'.
- Delete book at the website and replace with pay at the door.

ACTION: AL,MC

AL mentioned that he would phone into Matt Tanton-Brown's radio show on BBC Radio Suffolk with a question and take the opportunity to publicise the talk at the Village Hall.

AL covered the talk by Ron Bossingham planned for Saturday 12 March. The title of the talk would be 'Dead Funny'. The majority decision of the committee was that this should go ahead as planned. AL would contact

MC to prepare a poster and would liaise with MC to get an article into the next Bruisyard Newsletter (deadline 25 January).

ACTION: AL,MC

DS raised the Platinum Jubilee celebrations arranged nationally for the extended 4 day weekend from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June. The final day, Sunday 5 June, was for local communities to have a Platinum Jubilee Big Lunch with the objective of fostering improved community spirit and interaction. This being of particular importance in helping communities return to a healthy normality and overcome the restrictions imposed by the pandemic over the past 2 years. The initiative for arranging a Big Lunch should be the local statutory body and DS asked for this to be included on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 17 January. DS mentioned that the Parish Council S.137 funds could be used to subsidise the event and proposed that BSAC could also award a grant towards the cost. Several committee members suggested a hog roast would be a good choice for the lunch though action would be needed soon by the Parish Council to secure a booking as there would no doubt be many communities planning similar events. PC agreed that this would be on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting and that a Parish Council lead would be agreed.

ACTION: PC,AS,TB,AL

6. AOB

PC mentioned that local authorities may be looking at the business rate status of Village/Community Halls/ Social Clubs and that those operating mainly as businesses rather than as a community facility should be assessed appropriately for council tax. DS noted that some Village/Community Halls/ Social Clubs operated more like public houses and hence tax exemption would not be appropriate. This however was not the case for the Village Hall and that the bar was used on an occasional basis only as part of a booked event. KC confirmed that the council tax exemption form had been completed and returned to the local authority in October and that a further 2 year exemption had been granted.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 7 March at 7.30pm immediately after the joint BSAC/PCC meeting which starts at 7.00pm.

David Smith
11 Jan 2022