

Corfe Village Hall meeting Wednesday 4th May 2022

Present – Keith Gosling, Chris Brown (Part), Ruth Pickles, Nigel Furniss, and Sue Ford

1. APOLOGIES – Jo Reed, Rob Smith and Andy Butler

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES – All covered on Agenda.

3. TREASURER REPORT/ANNUAL REPORT

CORFE VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

This is the first Village Hall Annual Report that has been presented for three years, due to the Covid restrictions, so along with this report a five year financial history has been included in order to help understand this period of time. Whilst the aims of the Village Hall Committee are broadly consistent with those for earlier years the level of activity has been severely reduced over the past two years. Therefore, it is encouraging that we did manage to have a 'Welcome to Corfe' event for the village, a charity quiz and the first Flower Show that has been held for some time.

However, whilst the income from renting out the Village Hall is steadily getting back on track for most activities, we have sadly seen the Youth Club, Mature Movers and the Art Group not start up again post Covid. Therefore, it would be good to see if these activities can be replaced or alternatives found as we go forward in order to protect the income generated.

Income from normal activities over the last three years was £16,126, recurring costs were £11,735 and major project costs were £6,314 - which left an overall deficit of -£1,923. The major projects included further work on the Village Hall floor, a complete rewiring of the fuse box and the installation of a dishwasher. The deficit was substantially reduced by generous donations from the Parish Council, but what has placed the Village Hall on such a strong financial footing was the various Covid grants given out by the Government. Over the last two years these have amounted to £32,321.

This strong financial position does give several opportunities, one of which would be the replacement of the ageing container with a small, purpose-built extension. This would provide more (and safer) storage facilities in a dry and clean environment. Additional blue chairs are required, but these cannot be stored in the damp container and the current storage facilities are inadequate to cope with the existing clubs and activities. The planning requirement for this is currently being explored and if anything is possible then this would be presented back to the Parish Council for their consideration and approval.

There will also be challenges ahead with the huge pressure on costs, particularly the recent rise in energy bills. In addition, we have recently been informed that Somerset West and Taunton will be reviewing, and potentially reducing, the 100% discretionary rates relief that the Village Hall currently enjoys. On a more local level we have still to replace Judith Richards as Chair and to get cover for the Secretary and the maintenance work.

So, in summary, this has been a very challenging three years. However, much has still been achieved, with the Village Hall being an excellent and well used resource. The income from the Covid grants puts us in a unique situation to make further improvements. I would finally like to particularly thank Chris Brown and Ruth Pickles for their hard work and commitment over the last few years. I look forward to working with them, Sue Ford, and the recent new additions to the Village Hall Committee, over the next twelve months.

4. EXTENSION PROPOSAL - Nigel Furniss is organising a meeting with a suitable architect and local builder (Tony Dewhurst) as we believe we have enough funds to progress this option, work out storage requirements and improve the loft access. An idea to produce a small office within this extension that could be hired out has also been proposed as has the installation of Solar panels to reduce the hall's carbon footprint and future running and heating costs.

5. QUEENS JUBILEE EVENT PICNIC PARTY IN THE QUEENS ACRE SUNDAY 5th JUNE 2022 – This will be a bring your own food and drinks event with teas and cakes and a glass of fizz being supplied. It will run from 3.30am – 5.30pm volunteers and cakes are being sought. Reef and Beef mobile van and a Pizza van previously used in the past at our farmers markets will be approached due course to see if attending is viable. Operating from 6.30pm onwards for this is the time being considered. Nigel Furniss and Ruth Pickles have volunteered to enquire and be the leads on this.

A proposed working group of volunteers to clean up the outside of the village hall including patio area has been agreed for 10am on Saturday 14th May.

6. REEF AND BEEF – Reef and Beef takeaway van will begin regular once a month, Friday evening operations during the Summer/Autumn months. This enterprise will need village support to make it viable so we do urge all those who appreciate them coming to our village to do their best and support them when it begins start dates will be advised at the right time.

7. SUMMER FLOWER SHOW – This popular village event will be going ahead on the August Bank Holiday Monday. Our thanks go out to Sheila Andrews and Gaynor Lewis for volunteering to do this. Email addresses of the Village Hall committee members have been requested to help reply to any requests for any help if required.

8. COVID LITERATURE – All COVID literature relating to previously enforced procedures and infection avoidance is to be removed from the hall following the lifting of regulations by HM Government. We will maintain our sanitizer gel dispenser unit for users but now intend to minimise the literature that is shown.

9. MAINTENANCE – The Village Hall is having its electricity meter read on 11th May prior to commencing a new contract with SSE on 12th May 2022. Bristol Fire have done an annual review of our fire extinguishers and we are now safety compliant for the year. All hall windows have now been cleaned inside and out and a regular service will be established.

10. 100 CLUB DRAWS FOR MAY – First prize £50 – Ticket 114 – Alistair Brown. Second prize £25 – Ticket 143 – Stella Dugdale. Third prize £25 – Ticket. - Priscilla Bushway. There will be a special £70 bonus draw for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June.

11. AOB –

(a) Sue Ford aired recycling bins proposal. The litter being thrown away in our bin by users of the park often contains much rubbish that could be recycled so would it be viable to offer up recycling bins to encourage more litter ownership. Chris Brown will enquire with the Parish Council to see if this could be a viable and affordable proposal.

(b) We are finding that hall and park users are leaving behind items of clothing and other such material never to return or enquire to claim it back. A proposal has therefore been made to take things for recycling or to the dump for disposal if no action is taken on them within 2 weeks of discovery.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - This will be in mid-June.