

Corfe Village Hall – Charity 304526 Newton Lane, Corfe, Taunton, Somerset

TA3 7AN

Corfe Village Hall meeting at 7pm Thursday 9th February 2023

APOLOGIES – Ruth Pickles

1. Welcome –

A discussion took place based on the Agenda sent out by Keith Gosling who had called for this meeting to discuss some urgent matters.

2. Minutes of last meeting 13th December 2022 –

Keith Gosling explained that the minutes of the last meeting had been updated to include details that would satisfy the Skipton Building Society Bank Account requirements for us to open an account. These included the fact that he and Chris Brown would be signatories for the account and that authorisation only needed one signatory. Chris Brown is to check with Ruth Pickles that the proposed £5 increase to booking fees for outside of Corfe users had been made for bookings taken from 1st January. A successful New Year's Eve party had taken place and our thanks go out to the organisers for making it such a success. The small booking fee previously set to cover costs on the night has since been waived and agreed with the committee.

3. Village Hall Bookings –

In the absence of Ruth Pickles, Chris Brown informed those present that The Village Hall continues to be very well used with steady bookings in late December and through January which was pleasing financially. We still however have some outstanding payments to collect which is disappointing now that we are well into February. Keith Gosling is to chase these and is hopeful of an early settlement to avoid taking any further actions.

4. Finances –

With Village Hall Societies and our Party bookings going so well Keith Gosling was able to report that the Village Hall finances remain in very good shape. We now have £30K in our savings account and £3K in our current account. A word of warning however, as water and electricity prices continue to rise. At present the Village Hall is benefiting from a fixed 3 year rate energy deal, which is allowing us to maintain our competitive pricing. We will do our best to keep this the case, especially so for village users and local activities. We have had a few repairs to cover such as replacing a hall strip light and lifting the radiators. A spring clean of the hall is now due to clear out 'tat' and freshen it up in the next few months and Keith Gosling will soon be suggesting a suitable date and requesting some help.

5. 100 Club 2023 –

Keith Gosling and Chris Brown have been finalising the collections for this year's fund-raising effort. Keith is confident that, once all monies are collected, we could hit around £2K in takings and wants to thank all villagers and 'friends' for supporting this fund-raising annual event. It goes without saying that this is a major contributor to our finances and greatly helps us to maintain this important village amenity.

6. Proposed Extension Update –

The proposed Village Hall extension is reaching a critical stage with planning and submissions for funding. Nigel Furniss, who is our lead on this, explained to those present that we now have two extension options to explore. 1. Being an extension that goes outwards incorporating the existing Patio in a horseshoe shaped perimeter the other being one that expands in the same way but also towards the existing tree by 2m leaving the patio untouched this being the biggest footprint if adopted. A third non extension option would be to look to replace the existing container with something more suitable, manageable, and practical, over the next couple of years and to mothball the current extension plans. We have so far obtained a detailed quotation from a local builder and are hopeful of having another shortly so that these can then be included in our stage 2 submission for some of the Platinum Jubilee Fund which was made available for Village Hall improvements. Keith Gosling has been working tirelessly on the funding side of things and our thanks go out to him with this as it has proven to be a complicated submission to do and been very time consuming.

7. Village Coronation Event –

On the 7th May Corfe will celebrate the Coronation of HRH King Charles III, with a village event on Queens Acre. Heather Gosling has volunteered to organise this celebration and is now seeking help from all villagers and friends, so please help if you can and let Heather know. The Corfe Fete Marquee will be erected, and the plan is to have this up for the summer period. Obviously, grass cutting, and other park activities will need to be considered with this approach and appropriate steps will be taken but all being well this may encourage more village gatherings as a result.

8. Future Committee Positions –

It is with great regret that we have been informed that Keith Gosling wishes to step down from the Village Hall Committee and has given us notice of this which he wishes to do so from 1st June 2023. Keith has been our Treasurer and 'Heartbeat' of the committee for the last 6 years and his current personal workload, especially with the additional responsibilities has led to this decision. The job roles of what Keith does for the hall will shortly be advertised and the plan, if all goes well, is to distribute some of these tasks to others and to find 'new blood' within the village to take our hall forward in the coming years.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TBA -This will hopefully take place next late March or early April.