

Corfe Village Hall – Minutes 30th August 2023, 7pm
Charity 304526 Newton Lane, Corfe, Taunton, Somerset, TA3 7AQ

Attendees: Chris Brown, Sue Ford, Nigel Furniss, Keith Gosling, Rob Smith, Emma Bowers

Apologies: Andy Butler (Chair), Ruth Pickles

Meeting opened by NF in the absence of AB

1. Last Meeting Minutes Review

ACTION – EB to add last meeting minutes review for future meetings (to check actions)

2. Charity Application Status

AB advised via email in advance of meeting that charity application should be completed by 4th Sept.

ACTION – AB to update once complete

3. Village Hall Extension / Planning Application

NF updated that a new flat roof design was now being favoured, due to project cost benefit expected nearer to £80k vs previous £120k. No longer extending to the side but only ‘westwards/forwards’ to create a secondary room + WC + flexible additional storage. Structure would be primarily timber materials for a more ecofriendly concept that would blend with modern hall to create a more contemporary design. Planning resubmission will be required (at zero cost) due to changes, although preliminary conversation with planning office suggest no issues with the changes. Full spec drawings will be prepared, then at least 5 builders quotes for evaluation. All of which would be available for a future public meeting before any action is taken.

ACTION – NL continuing with project, planning resubmission & 5 quotes

4. Hall Maintenance

- NF updated that there are few ongoing maintenance items to be done :

- I. Radiator heater control switch isn't working on one radiator, All will need to be changed due to their age and no longer available
- II. Window latches
- III. General painting / freshen walls where scuff marks are visible from chair storage against walls
- IV. Note that patio door hook that was broken has since been replaced by Keith Gosling 1/9

ACTION – NF to manage as required

5. Solar Panels

Neil Bailey has been helping by doing a site survey and also contacting 3 suitable companies to quote. Some promising indications that solar panels would be viable and have an acceptable payback for the Village Hall to invest in solar panels to offset heating/electric bills. 3 quotes are currently being obtained

ACTION – KG to follow-up with Neil prior to next meeting

6. AV Proposal

Local AV company submitted proposal for audio equipment in June, to include 6 speakers, Loop Hearing system and projector unit. Would be helpful for kids party bookings and potential community film nights. Committee believe the investment will be beneficial if appropriate grants/funding can offset the cost. 2 further quotes will be obtained before any further decision is made. In the meantime, 5G Wifi has now been installed in the hall, available for future bookings. Could be helpful for kids parties / film nights Need to update the website

ACTION – CB arrange for website to reflect Wifi

ACTION – NF & CB obtain 2 further quotes

ACTION – EB research facilities and comparative booking fees at Taunton Racecourse Conference centre

7. Village Hall Bookings

CB updated that past couple months have been fairly quiet, excluding the regular bookings for all the Corfe Societies. Currently only 1 extra booking for Sept.

8. Finances

KG reviewed this quarter's income which was £1,724.14 vs expenditure of £1,482.91

KG said he will remind the societies about the £5 increase in rates for winter months (revert back in April)

9. Questionnaire Feedback / Events

Summary enclosed with minutes. Committee reviewed the responses to the questionnaire. Overall 21% response rate (30 out of 140 questionnaires returned). Top 5 activities, in order of popularity are :

- I. Farmers Market and/or Food nights (thai/curry most popular)
- II. Annual Event (Summer and a Winter one, eg: New Years popular)
- III. Community Café (vs. shop which was considered less viable)
- IV. Quiz Night (every 2 – 3 months preferred)
- V. Wine Tasting evenings

Item ii, iv and v are already well organised, popular and very well attended by the community. Committee also considered that the New Years Party was a really well attended and positive event and likely to be repeated this winter. Therefore focus of any new efforts will be on i (Farmers Market and/or Food Nights) and iii (Café). Twelve (12) people put their name down in the questionnaire as willing to help organise an event and 18 names were submitted to help volunteer various events. These persons will be contacted shortly to help brainstorm how we trial one or all 3 open topics : Farmers Market, community café, Food Night(s). more to follow.

As an aside, the committee has been contacted by a couple of residents questioning the £10 fee for events. The Committee reviewed and wanted to clarify that the £10 fee does not apply for any event that is organised for the benefit of the community (ie, all of the above 5 activities plus others) in which a large part of Corfe residents attend and also wanted to clarify that the raffle was only ever a suggestion and by no means compulsory at all.

ACTION – EB contact persons who put names forward for organising events for a brainstorming session on Market , Café and Food Night(s).

ACTION – KG to contact Judith on ideas / contacts for Farmers Market

ACITON – EB to feedback to the residents who raised concerns of the £10 fee

- *ACTION –funding equipment question to be added to next hall committee meeting (not discussed on 30.8)*

10. 100 Club Draw

All 27 names from questionnaires (3 annon) were put into a draw to pick 2 names for the 3 remaining 100 club draws in 2023. Well done to Andreas Biss and Mervyn Hosking who won 1 ticket each.

100 Club draw for August - Congratulations go to:

- £50 David Royle
- £25 Nigel Furniss
- £25 Peter White

11. Any Other Business (AOB)

- i. **Old Photos** SF asked if there were any old community photos available from the hall. Yes there are and it raised the topic that they should probably be digitised to preserve them. NF will begin that task

ACTION – NF to begin digitising photos

- ii. **Old Benches** Three new benches are required.

ACTON CB and KG will arrange to order and will discuss with parish council how to recover monies

12. Date of Next Meeting – provisionally agreed next meeting on Wed 11th October

13. Meeting Closed by NF