

**Minutes of the Great Easton Village Hall Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday 26th May 2021 10:30am
In The Village Hall (Socially Distanced)**

Present

Tim Smith (Chair)
Lorna Bryant
Alice Murdock
Margaret Stamp
Sally Armstrong
Kay Mitchell (Secretary)

Apologies: Vikki Halliday, Louisa Feltham

Meeting started 10.34am

1. Welcome and Apologies noted
2. Minutes of the last meeting read and agreed
3. Matters Arising
 - Stage refurb - painting the stage backdrop blue -c/f - **AM**
 - Roadside Advertising boards - pending - c/f **AM**
 - Info/Display board outside shop - pending -c/f **AM**
 - Kitchen - corner-tap - c/f **TS**
 - Replacement gingham tablecloths (5) - c/f **AM**
(some green tablecloths have been donated by Gill Christie. These are useable)
 - Short Mat Bowls - c/f **AM**: Alice reported approximate cost to purchase a set, which will need to be considered alongside other spending priorities
 - Lighting desk - c/f **LF**

 - Archive Room - As restrictions will be lifted shortly, a meeting can now be arranged with the History Society to discuss the options for an Archive Room (**Action AM**)
Louisa believes Wigston Archive will take all the Gt Easton Archive material, although this needs to be confirmed with the Wigston Records Office (**Action AM**)
The quantity of material and what it consists of needs assessing before any decisions can be made.
As the owners of the Gt Easton Archive the History Society will need to decide how and where they want their information stored. The VH can provide the space.

 - Sheila Thomson's outstanding 100 Club Money: Kay has been unsuccessful in getting this payment. Lorna agreed to approach Sheila for the funds, as she is in frequent contact with her. **Action Lorna**

4. 'Frosting' Damage

The wall between the VH and Mr and Mrs Tyler (no 23) is showing signs of 'frosting' damage to the stones, similar to the frosting that has appeared along the front of the Hall. It was initially unclear who was responsible for maintaining this wall, however Alice located some old documents that indicate the VH owns this partition wall and will therefore be responsible for repairs.

Tim managed to get a quote from Mark Waterfield to replace the damage to the Hall. Mark has quoted £5100 (including VAT). Tim is going to speak to the Insurance company to see if a claim could be made (**action TS**) and the Parish Council may also have funds to assist (**action AM**). Concerns were expressed at the depth of damage that might be exposed once work is underway, causing the cost to increase. Mark is proposing to start in the work in early Autumn. Tim will also ask Mark to quote for repairs to the side wall that belongs to the VH, (next to No 23)

5. Finance

Current balance £36045.23, largely from Government Covid grants.

Alice proposed a spending priority list:

- 1 Repairs to the wall
- 2 Toilet refurb and repair to taps
- 3 Archive Room
- 4 Short Mat Bowls
- 5 Portable Staging
- 6 Improvements to the exterior space*

*Given the emphasis on outdoor socialising following the lifting of restrictions, Tim explained his thinking regarding the use of the outside space behind the kitchen. He suggested taking out the large wooden swings and having a gazebo/bandstand/covered seating area created. The Committee felt this was a good idea and may be something to prioritise over other smaller projects listed.

KM outlined that the PC and Park Recreation Group are jointly exploring improvements to Clarke's Piece, which include outdoor gym equipment, a zip-wire and a covered seating area. They're currently at the stage of writing bids/proposals to secure funding, however this maybe something the VHC could link into. Action: **KM to formally raise with the Recreation Committee**

6. Book Swap

Christine Shaw has approached the VH to ask whether a Book Swap could be located within the Hall, for example, opening once a week for return and swap. There was discussion about the feasibility of this project. Louisa has indicated that any books/bookshelves in the Foyer area could be hazardous at times of GELT productions. The Church was suggested as

an alternative however Margaret felt this may not be feasible due to space and storage.

A Book Swap would have to take place at times when the Hall isn't in use. It would also need to be supervised; managing donations and storage may be an issue.

Lorna highlighted there is still a Library Bus that comes to the Village once a month.

Action TS will write to Christine explaining that the Committee will review the proposal once restrictions are fully lifted and ask Christine to assist by suggesting how she imagines the Book Swap might work.

7. VH Insurance

Our three-year deal with Allied Westminster has expired. Tim reported that the renewal would be £704.78 per year (based on three years).

One year would be £740 and 5 years £690

A comparative quote from Zurich Insurance came out at £804 per year. Tim proposed a five-year purchase from Allied Westminster.

This was Agreed.

8. Regular Clubs/Groups Open Day

It has been suggested that the VH might host a "recruitment day", where existing groups and potential new groups can meet with local people to tell them about their society/activity, with the aim of bumping-up membership or encouraging new groups to start up. To be held on a Saturday, 10-4 at the VH, after the 21 June (when restrictions are lifted). Refreshments to be provided.

This was agreed. **Details TBC**

9. Covid Re-opening

Policies and signage are in place ready for 21st June. We can respond to any Government changes if, as and when they might happen.

10 AOB - Alice

- The outside sign at the front needs renovating. Phil Long is happy to give it a go. Agreed.
- Hanging baskets ready and will be going out in a week or so
- Teresa Chapman has received a large donation of McVities biscuits for groups to use. Alice has agreed to store these at the VH (in a mouse proof box)

Meeting ended 12.44