

MINAL VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Minutes of committee meeting held on Monday, 10 October 2022 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Rob Bailey, Milly Carmichael, Lynn Scholefield, Jon Napper, Sarah Foard, Lisa Comber, Susanna Lamb

1. **APOLOGIES:** None.
2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:**
 - Rob to put a notice about Octopus referral in the newsletter.
 - Lynn to review the Banking Policy and signatories – on-going.
 - Bee garden – Millie had spent time working on the Bee Garden. It has been agreed that the grass would not be cut until early May to preserve the bulbs growing. The rain planter had been looking lovely and Millie was investigating possible signage.
 - The lights in the toilet were still being left on by Hall users – Lynn agreed to place a sign on the exit door as a reminder to turn off lights.
4. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
 - None.
5. **TREASURER'S REPORT:**
 - Lynn circulated income and expenditure for the 9 months ended 30 September 2022, along with a forecast on the gas and electricity usage and prices.
 - Income for the hire of the Hall was down on 2019 but was higher than 2021 due to COVID. More bookings were needed in order to get to pre-Covid levels.
 - Fortunately, the total income was not affected due to grants received in 2021.
 - Parties were on the increase and the proceeds from the village fete had now been received.
 - There had been a net loss on expenditure of £587. If we were to take out the non-regular costs and income we would be left with net profit of £281.
 - Gas and electricity prices were about to rise, with a 500% increase meaning prices rising from £1,000 to £6,000 a year. The rise cap does not apply to businesses but there is an energy bill relief scheme of around 20-40%. To this end, it was agreed that Lynn would include a note on the invoices saying that we will reduce the temperature in the hall to make savings.
 - The boiler was serviced and fire testing and maintenance carried out.
 - Rob agreed to pursue any possible business grants.
 - To increase profits, the Hall needed to be hired out by an extra 3 hours a week. Sarah agreed to approach other village halls to see what they were doing regarding price increases.
6. **CLEANER'S SUPPORT:**
 - The Hall is cleaned on a Monday if it is in use on a Sunday.

7. MAINTENANCE:

- Funding of the porch
 - Much heating is lost when the doors of the Hall are opened. An enclosed porch would improve this.
 - Rob reported that £5,500 had been given to the village following the building of the new house on entering the village. This money could be split between the Village Hall, a new fence around the playground and extending the footpath at The Leaze. This would be discussed further at the Parish Council meeting in November and Rob would report back on any agreed funding.
 - All agreed that an enclosed porch was a good idea. Jon suggested that the ceiling was left in place and a simple wood infill fitted. To be discussed further once funding is agreed. An over-door blow heater would assist in preventing heat loss.
- Rob to investigate any other possible grants.
- Other maintenance jobs:
 - Hedge cutting
 - Fixing curtain rails
 - Window sills in toilets and exterior

8. REPS' COMMUNICATION:

- Church – None.
- Gardening – as previously mentioned
- Parish Council – as previously mentioned
- Sports and Social – they were currently getting ready for the Fireworks evening. Thanks were extended to them for the money given that was raised at the fete.

9. SIGNAGE:

- Lynn had created a mock-up of a banner as a suggestion to advertise the hire of the Hall. It was agreed that Elspeth in the village would be asked for her assistance with this and Rob agreed to include this in the newsletter.

10. DEFIBRILLATOR:

Sarah had done some investigation into the maintenance and possible training for the village on the defibrillator. Friends of Savernake had installed it and Derek Moss maintains it. Sarah said she would look into making sure it was on a network to enable its location to be pin-pointed. Training is expensive but there are good illustrations on how to use it, plus further information on the British Heart Foundation. A possible village training day was suggested.

11. VILLAGE HALL AS A POSSIBLE VENUE FOR FUEL POVERTY VILLAGERS:

There were some practical issues with allowing the Hall to be used as a venue for this, such as supervision and how to identify those in need of it. Rob reported that Wiltshire Council were already working on a contingency plan. Instead, it was suggested that villagers kept an eye on vulnerable neighbours.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

With Lisa stepping down in due course, all agreed to be pro-active in finding someone to replace her as Hall Bookings person early next year.

It was suggested that there was one run of a hardcopy newsletter to capture everyone in the village.

13. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, 11 January 2023, 7pm