

St Margaret's Hall Management Committee Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday. 7th September 2018. 1900

1. Present

Gareth Cherry (Treasurer), Vicky Franklin, Olly Franklin, Maria Hawkins, Gillian Miles, John Macdonald (Chair).

2. Apologies

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair), Ann Franklin, Emilie Gordon, Jacqueline Pyne, Hannah Williamson.

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 5th May 2018.

Previously circulated, signed.

4. Matters arising.

Fund Raiser. JM suggested that the prospective menu should be as for the abortive March dinner. Then it was determined that the main course would be a leek and chicken casserole with a vegetarian option. The ticket price was set at £15, a slight rise over the previous dinner, but most felt that the villagers who were interested in attending would view the dinner as a worthwhile cause. OF suggested that each Committee Member should use their email list to recruit six prospective attendees for the dinner. GC will produce a flyer for OF to display in the South Cheriton Garage. GM suggested that flyers should be posted on all available notice boards. JM proposed a sample dinner at his home on an evening in late September for committee members. There was some discussion as to whether the fund raiser take could be increased by utilising a paid bar, but the Committee felt that the traditional format of bring your own bottle should be continued. Action. Committee.

Trustees. JM recounted his attempts to recruit Adrian Pratt and Marcus Ferguson to the Committee. Unfortunately, both felt unable to join for a variety of reasons. In the course of conversation with Marcus' partner Penny Nagel, she suggested that the Hall might utilise her film equipment to show a film in aid of Hall funds. VF pointed out that the Wincanton Film Society had seen a fall off of enthusiasm and had closed. The Committee was of the opinion that a one off showing could be well attended and perhaps we could take up Penny's kind offer at a future date.

Rates of Hire. The revised Rates of Hire have been promulgated on the website.

Application to Hall & Woodhouse Community Chest. Unfortunately, our application to the Fund was unsuccessful.

GDPR. The policy for the General Data Protection Regulations has been drawn up and approved. The policy was proposed by GM and seconded by GC. The Privacy Policy is now promulgated on the Hall website.

5. Chair Report.

It's been a long hot summer with very little activity in the hall. I attended a workshop on the General Data Protection Regulations given by the Community Council for Somerset and have formulated the required policy on the subject. This has been added to the information on our website. Unfortunately, our application to the Hall and Woodhouse Community Chest for funds to replace the rather shabby chairs was unsuccessful

6. Treasurer's report.

It has been a reasonably quiet summer for St Margaret's Hall, that being said between April - August it has managed to almost breakeven (£1646.02 in income vs £1741.76 expenditure). However we haven't had to incur the costs of heating fuel during these months so if the current bookings/income continues through the autumn/winter months the hall will run at a deficit for the financial year.

We have accumulated funds to weather this downturn, however my opinion is a fund raising event is required in top up the reserves! The fund raising dinner is always a good way to raise money for the hall.

7. Booking's report.

It has been the summer break when all the classes stop and the Hall is very quiet and apart from one family party in August there is nothing to report. All the classes are starting up with the beginning of the Autumn term apart from Badminton which is struggling with numbers so may not continue, which is sad as it has been running for many years. This completes the bookings report.

8. Sport's report.

The South Cheriton Football Club's Men's Saturday team have played the first game of the season and came away 2-1 winners. The Club have started a veteran team and they play their first game on the 16th October. They will be playing once a month with the novel procedure of ro-ro (roll on roll off) substitutes to cater for age and in/ability. The first youth team (under 8's) to play for a while have also started, although at present they don't play in a league.

9. Maintenance.

The only scheduled maintenance is for a boiler service in early November. The committee approved the spend for servicing to be carried out by our regular engineer, Martin Holloway.

10. AOB.

Changing Room External Stairs. OF pointed out that the stairs and the decking are reaching the end of their useful life. While the decking may last a while longer the lip at the top the stairs needs replacing now. JM undertook to cost the repair and the cost of new decking and stairs. Action. JM

Gates and notices. OF noted that the gates at the entrance to the playing field were in need of replacement and that notices should be displayed to discourage dog and horse owners from using the playing fields. While the Committee were sympathetic, it was pointed out that the Hall does not own either the gates or the playing fields and felt that the Football club should take the request to the owner, Tom Todd.

Manhole Cover. OF pointed out that while the cess pit manhole cover was hidden by the hedge growth, it was unsafe and should be replaced as a matter of urgency. Action. JM.

Skittle Alley. JM had a request for the hire of the skittle alley, which is the property of the Hall and is on the inventory. Formerly, the skittle alley was kept in a barn at McCreery's. In recent memory, the School has been the only user at their village fête. It has recently been rectified and is now being stored under one of the outer classrooms at the School.

Summer Ball. GM informed the committee about the proposed summer ball to be held on the 29th June next year in aid of Prostate Cancer UK. The ball will be held under canvas on the playing field. GM is of the opinion that because the numbers attending will be in the order of 250 there was little likelihood of the Hall being utilised. Facilities would be on site. Parking will be at a premium and Fred Ford, who lives opposite the School has kindly agreed to the use of one of his fields. The Committee was asked to drum up support for this good cause. Action. Committee.

11. Date of next committee meeting.

The next meeting will be held on the 7 December 2018 at 1900.

The meeting closed at 2005.