

**St Margaret's Hall
Management Committee
Minutes of Meeting
Friday. 27th September 2019. 1900**

1. Present.

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair), Gareth Cherry (Treasurer), Ann Franklin, Vicky Franklin, Maria Hawkins, Jacqueline Pyne, John Macdonald (Chair).

2. Apologies.

Emilie Gordon, Gillian Miles, Ollie Franklin, Hannah Williamson.

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 4th May 2019.

Previously circulated, signed.

4. Matters arising.

None.

5. Chair Report.

Another relatively quiet summer. There have been several requests for hire of tables and where possible these have been accommodated and donations made to Hall funds.

6. Treasurer's report.

The good news this quarter is that we have reduced our annual insurance premium significantly whilst not compromising our cover. Allied Westminster who have been our insurer for a number of years had offered a renewal premium of £1025.38 however this has been reduced to £565.53 with a competitor on a 3 year deal. We have to pay a £102.74 refund to Allied Westminster for breaking the existing 3 year agreement but this is a moot point given the £357.11 net saving this year with greater savings for the following 2 years.

With Charlton Horethorne Hall having being closed for a few months for refurbishment over the summer we have been able to attract one of the fitness classes run there - Kyle Ellis Personal Training and hopefully he will continue to operate from our hall.

7. Booking's report.

The Hall has had quite a flurry of activity with all the extra elections and due to the refurbishment of the Charlton Horethorne village hall two teachers used the Horsington Hall as a stop gap for five weeks.

The Pilate's instructor Alison Wells used the Hall and is considering starting up a yoga class in our hall, which if it happens will be great.

Also the Mother and Toddlers gathering seems to be a regular slot so, hopefully, that will continue.

All the other classes and activities carry on as usual, so everything is humming along nicely.

8. Sport's report.

To be advised.

9. Maintenance.

Fire Extinguishers. The annual check was carried out on the 15th May and the Fire Equipment was in satisfactory condition.

Boiler. Scheduled maintenance for a boiler service is due in early November. The committee approved the spend for servicing to be carried out by our regular engineer, Martin Holloway. Action, JM.

Smoke Alarm. The smoke alarm in the entrance Hall was replaced last week. The new alarm is a sealed unit with a ten year guarantee. GC suggested that the new Insurers might require two smoke alarms in the building. He will check the wording as to the requirement. GC also pointed out that the insurer insisted on a monthly test of smoke alarms. JM confirmed this was already carried out during the monthly Safety check. Action. GC, JM.

10. AOB.

Folding Chairs in Upper Store Room. VF outlined a proposal for the disposal of the chairs. She had recently made a donation to the Hall funds for the use of the chairs and tables. The folding chairs have not been used for some time and some are infested with woodworm. VF suggested that, as the chairs were no longer used by the Hall, she could determine which chairs are still viable, spray them and make a suitable donation. The committee considered £1 a chair a fair sum and VF pledged £40 to Hall funds. Action, VF.

JM has had a recent communication from the Community Council for Somerset offering second hand chairs. Our own chairs need upgrading and JM has been looking at alternative seating. JP pointed out that it was imperative to ensure the fire safety stickers were still attached to foam filled chairs if we did go down that route. Action, JM.

Hedges. The hedge adjacent to the Hall car park needs trimming back. JP stated that the Parish Council considered that the hedge next to the asphalt was part of the curtilage of the Hall and as such would come under the agreement with the PC that it would maintain the surrounds. She would request that Steven Hawkins would add it to the cutting of the grass. JP pointed out that the side of the hedge facing the field was the owners responsibility. JM noted that the Tom Todd of the Manor had very kindly included the long car park hedge in his hedge cutting schedule. He will write a note of thanks. Action, JM.

Man Hole Covers. OF has pointed out that condition of the two circular covers at the rear of the Hall could be problematic. CB stated that normally parts are modular and should be easily interchangeable if required. Action, JM, OF.

Changing Room Steps. The lowest step of the external stairs has collapsed and the newel posts have rotted at their base. They are presently signposted at the back door and on the steps. (Danger. Do not enter.). JM has had a couple of carpenters look at the stairs and is awaiting estimates. The decking will need to be replaced at the same time. Action. JM.

Route 60+. David Chapman, the secretary to the PC, had sent an email to JM explaining the concept of Route 60+. In essence, it is a course aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving on the road safer for longer. The course normally lasts two hours and includes advice from professionals such as police, fire and health services and other agencies who can offer advice as we get older. A talk is given by Steve Greenhalgh from Somerset Road Safety. That talk lasts for one hour and JP said that the WI were considering inviting him to give the talk to one of their meetings in the new year. JP also pointed out that visitors would be welcome to the WI meeting. A discussion was held as to the various ways which the course could be advertised. At present there are eight villagers from North Cheriton who are interested in the course and are looking for neighbouring villages to provide additional numbers. JM undertook to advertise the course/talk in the Villager and possibly the Horsington Blog to

ascertain interest. JP pointed out that there was no Community group in the village, which might have been the organisation through which the course could have been advertised. Action, JM.

Place of Safety. JM has taken the liberty of renewing our acceptance of being a Place of Safety for Somerset County Council. He will send out the relevant details to committee.

Field Gates. The gates to the entrance of the Sports Field require replacement for easier access (ambulances, etc.). CB pointed out that these gates were not the property of the Hall and should be replaced by the owner. OF has previously outlined the Football Club's financial situation and the Committee feel that they have been charitable in allowing the Club a moratorium on its fees for the use of the changing rooms. CB generously offered to source a wooden gate, minus VAT, should the club be interested.

11. Date of next committee meeting.

The next meeting will be held on the 13 December 2019 at 1900.

The meeting closed at 1940.