

St Margaret's Hall Management Committee Minutes of Meeting Friday. 10th September 2021. 1900

1. Present.

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair, Treasurer), Emilie Gordon, Vicky Franklin, Maria Hawkins, Jacqueline Pyne, Liela Moss, John Macdonald (Chair).

Liela Moss was introduced to the committee and gave a brief personal history.

2. Apologies.

Gareth Cherry, Ollie Franklin, Gillian Miles.

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 13th December 2019.

Previously circulated, signed.

4. Matters arising.

Electrical inspection. The Halls five yearly check was carried out by Mark Pearson. The Inspection was satisfactory. There were minor discrepancies mainly due to the age of the building/wiring. Inevitably, an historical perspective must be placed on the inspection. MP states there is nothing inherently unsafe and all the discrepancies we can live with. Two emergency exit lights were replaced.

Covid procedures. Although limits have been relaxed by the government, ACRE suggests that the hall continues to maintain their suggested procedures post lockdown. Notices have been updated. There is no requirement for a Covid first aid kit, but since we have it, it might as well be kept in place. ACRE suggests that while the maximum capacity limits have been relaxed, halls should institute a limit that feels is appropriate. The suggestion of half maximum capacity was put forward and committee agreed. Action. EG.

Trustees. The committee welcomes new trustee Liela Moss. David Barnard, a resident of South Cheriton, was suggested by former chair Gill Elston as a possible trustee and JM will be meeting him in the near future to try and persuade him to join the committee. At a previous meeting OF suggested that his neighbour might be a suitable candidate. VF stated that the family is likely to be moving in the near future and thus the candidacy was no longer appropriate.

Security. OF was unable to attend the meeting, therefore his research on security equipment will be discussed at a future meeting. Action. OF.

Hall surrounds. JM has spoken to Mark Tucker, chairman of the Parish Council, about the maintenance of the surrounds again. He apologised and will follow up the matter. JP gave a rundown of the historical background of the relationship between the Hall and the Parish Council.

Memorial bench. Maria Brown, stepdaughter of Derek Hartley, offered some selections for a memorial bench in honour of the former resident of Horsington. The committee selected a suitable option and JM will communicate to Maria the committee's decision. Action. JM.

Badminton. An advert has been placed in the next addition of the Villager for anyone who wishes to start a badminton club to play badminton in the hall. LM suggested that if the equipment was kept in the hall anybody might like to hire the Hall to play badminton on an ad hoc basis and suggested social media could be used to advertise the possibility. An updated advert to be placed in the Villager's next edition reflecting this suggestion and adding that a table tennis table is available. JM was requested to contact Frank Beach, leader of the defunct Badminton club, to recover any equipment. Action. JM.

5. Chair Report.

Covid restrictions were lifted in July and the Hall could reopen, theoretically, without the previous onerous restraints. In practice, due to the invidious nature of the disease and the desire of most of the elderly population, most of the common sense requirements remain in place. Our umbrella organisation ACRE has continued to provide us with valuable advice and we follow their counsel.

Our Hallmark assessment on July 13th achieved a successful outcome. There were a couple of minor comments made by the assessors and these have been addressed. Our accreditation is valid until 12 July 2024.

6. Treasurer's report.

A reasonably quiet quarter, with income banked, £351.50, slightly below costs of £420.99 however a final grant amount of £128 from South Somerset District Council meant the account was in the black for the quarter!

The annual renewal of the Halls insurance, £596.49, is due by the end of September. This is the last year of our 3 year undertaking so new terms will need to be sought next year, however this undertaking has saved the hall a significant amount of money compared to the prior provider, Allied Westminster.

7. Booking's report.

The classes started from 17th of May and are going well. We have also had at least five enquiries for private parties, which is really encouraging. Things appear to be back to normal, fingers crossed, for a smooth autumn.

8. Sport's report.

To be advised.

9. Maintenance.

Fire extinguishers. At a previous meeting, OF raised the possibility that we were being overcharged for our annual fire extinguisher inspection. He produced an invoice for his place of business which indicated no huge difference between our present inspector, Morgan Fire and OF's inspector Fireline. Originally, the Hall had an exorbitant contract with Chubb which involved them providing and servicing fire extinguishers. To decrease costs the committee elected to purchase our own fire extinguishers and have them commissioned and thereafter serviced by a contractor annually. JM had warned the Morgan Fire operative of the possibility of competition at the last inspection on June 4th. JM has been in contact with Fireline and is awaiting an estimate for our next inspection in 2022.

Building exterior. JM expressed a mea culpa as he had done nothing about obtaining estimates for the painting of the exterior of the Hall. In practice no decorator would have been able to complete the task this summer, all being fully employed. JM will obtain estimates soonest in order that the work be done in the spring and summer of 2022. JM raise the possibility of the two vents in the ridge of the roof being closed off to aid in the heating of the hall. CB suggested that this might introduce damp in the original flues. JP indicated the possible position of the original open fires used to heat the hall prior to radiators being installed. JM undertook to contact the Technical section of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to ascertain the feasibility of such action. Action. JM.

10. AOB.

Milborne Port Opera. CB advised that Milborne Port Opera were no longer welcome at their previous rehearsal venue and requested the use of the Hall on Thursday evenings for rehearsals. The Bookings Secretary (EG) advised that this would in principle be possible with the exception of possible conflicting evenings with the WI meetings. Action, EG, JP, CB.

Recovery of VAT. There was some discussion as to whether charities could recover VAT. JM made the point that, where possible, the Hall employed non-VAT rated tradesmen. No one was sure of the position on recovery of VAT. Some research is needed. Action. JM.

11. Date of next committee meeting.

The next meeting, 10th December, 1900.

The meeting closed at 2000.