

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

1. Present.

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair, Treasurer), Gillian Miles, Jacqueline Pyne, John Macdonald (Chair).

2. Apologies.

Gareth Cherry, Emilie Gordon, Ollie Franklin, Vicky Franklin, Maria Hawkins, Liela Moss.

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 10th September 2021.

Previously circulated, signed.

4. Matters arising.

Trustees. JM met David Barnard of South Cheriton with a view to recruiting him to the committee. The meeting was constructive and David would have been a good fit for the committee, but he felt he had done his fair share of committee work in his previous occupation and therefore he declined. He stated that he would be more than happy to provide practical assistance.

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

Memorial bench. Derek Hartley's memorial bench is in place at the front of the Hall. Our thanks go to Maria Brown and her husband for providing and anchoring the bench. Some material will have to be found to cover the grey cement. Action. JM.

Badminton. An advert was placed in last month's copy of the Villager to advise that the Hall was open to all comers on an ad hoc basis to play Badminton. Frank Beech, the previous leader of the Badminton club, has been contacted and is willing to pass on the net, which belonged to the club, for the use of any players hiring the Hall.

Milborne Port Opera. CB advised that the rehearsals of the Opera company would not take place in the Hall due to the width of the hall being too narrow. Lewiston School is the favoured location.

Recovery of VAT. JM gave an explanation of his limited research into recovery of the Tax on the Government website and the ACRE information sheet. Unfortunately, St. Margaret's already get relief on the heating oil as we are users of limited amounts of less than 2300 litres per year and thus pay the reduced rate of 5% rather than the standard rate. As far as other reliefs being accessible, it would appear the only relief available would be applied to building works. This doesn't apply to decorating the exterior.

5. Chair Report.

The Hall is in effect back to normal while maintaining the required Covid restrictions recently updated. Having maintained all the posters and equipment since the last relaxation of procedures, nothing needs to be changed, although the latest amendment from ACRE hasn't been received.

I attended the Community Council for Somerset Community Buildings event at Holford in October, ostensibly to accept our Hallmark certificate. Prior to the presentation were two useful talks on Fundraising. One given by a professional fundraiser and the second given by the Chair of a recently erected Somerset community building. Both were very helpful, the first being theoretical and the second giving practical examples of how they raised funds to build and equip their building.

6. Treasurer's report.

We are in the interregnum period of the handover from GC to CB. CB raised a few questions about our financial status and JM confirmed that our normal position was a deficit of roughly £1000 per annum which is traditionally subsidised by a fund raiser, usually our popular village dinner. Prior to the Covid endemic we were on course to break even for the first time for a few years without recourse to the additional funds being necessary.

7. Booking's report.

The Village Hall has been very busy with lots of private bookings, which has been very encouraging.

All the usual classes continue, and the initial worry of lack of numbers for the Friday art class has passed with more people attending and next term booked.

All the usual activities are getting back to normal which is good news.

Let's hope for a busy 2022.

8. Sport's report.

To be advised.

9. Maintenance.

Building exterior. JM has made contact with the three decorators recommended by the committee. He has received one estimate and is awaiting the others. As far as colour goes, JM suggested a neutral colour and will obtain some colour cards to distribute to the committee. The French doors in the changing rooms are to be replaced prior to the exterior decoration. Action. JM.

Roof Line. At the last meeting JM mentioned in passing the possibility of blocking off the roof line vents, primarily to preclude the heating of Somerset. CB suggested that might introduce an element of damp into the redundant chimney flues. JM contacted the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) for advice. SPAB suggested that even though the flues had been covered by tiles in later additions to the roof, two thoughts came to mind; damp ingress was still a possibility and to remove the cowl would be to change the essential fabric of an old building. An option would be to create a closing flap which could be opened or closed at will from within the main hall. Also they provided a list of local conservation surveyors that we could consult.

Oil Tank Sensor. The sensor has been replaced with an up to date Watchman sensor.

10. AOB.

Place of Safety. The Place of Safety status for the Hall came up for renewal. Since the committee assented to the Hall being used as a PoS when the request was originally generated by the Local Council, JM renewed the designation.

Hedges. GM had a complaint that the car park hedges were restricting the view of drivers exiting the carpark and should be cut back. CB furnished a couple of numbers of contractors who could be contacted. JM suggested that committee members should request any future complainers be adjured to join the committee. Action. JM.

Parish Report. GM gave a report on the activities of the Parish Council. Information was given on the possibility of lowering the speed limit on the A375, the status and the positioning of two dog waste bins and the condition of the pond after the escape of oil from the tank at the Grange.

11. Date of next committee meeting.

The next meeting, 11th February, 2022. 1900.

The meeting closed at 1950.