

Tackley Village Memorial Hall
Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting
held on 26 May 2021

The meeting was opened at 18.01

Present: Katie Hofman (Chair); Les Summers (Vice chair) (LAS); Nick Hawes (Treasurer (NH); Julie Wakeham (Bookings Clerk) (JW); Pat Rolfe (PR); Doreen Havord (DH); Roxanna Villalobos (RV); Vi Banbury (Methodist Church) (VB); Sue Ashworth (Historical Society) (SA).

Apologies for absence: Barbara Summers, Rosie Hawes.

1) The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 21 April 2021 was accepted as a true record of that meeting. Proposed by PR, seconded by NH.

2) Matters arising

There were no Matters Arising.

3) Finance

The Treasurer reported that the bank balance currently stood at £20,426.94p. In reply to the Chair he said that hire fees paid by the football team, now coming in, covered their use of the changing rooms not the field. The goal posts were now very worn and they had considered raising money to buy new ones, but they were actually very expensive to replace.

4) Policies

The Chair said that an outline of a new website layout had been agreed and NH added that he was currently waiting to set it up. The new policies and booking forms would be part of the website for reference and downloading. These would be forwarded to NH for placing on the website.

The Chair reported that there had been a great deal of trouble caused by Drama School students, as a result of interference with the framed Pantomime picture, and also because of a blocked toilet and broken seat. She had made strong representation by email to the DS leadership who had accepted responsibility and apologised. It was agreed to ask AGM to repair the damage and to pass their invoice to the DS for settlement.

5) Booking Clerk's report

The Bookings Clerk reported more bookings being made; she had received a request for a Music and Movement session on Friday mornings, but since the DS were using the hall, it was not possible to accept it. There was a possibility, given the numbers involved, that they could use the Committee Room. Since the tables currently in this room were heavy and not easily demountable this led to discussion about the provision of new tables. At the suggestion of NH it was agreed that if the tables currently in the room could be properly disposed of, the committee could investigate buying more of the new type already in the main hall. Further discussion centred on offering the older type to either to the Scouts or on Tackley Freecycle.

6) Logo competition

RV had previously circulated some ideas for the Logo Competition and after discussion it was agreed that the white statement was preferred. The initial idea had been to not have a prize but following a suggestion by LAS it was agreed that, with children and adults competing together, a first prize of £30

with two runners up of £10 each (Amazon vouchers), would be offered. Committee members would not be permitted to participate.

The committee would have an opportunity, before the next meeting, to suggest the wording for the promotional document. This would allow the competition to be announced in the next Tackley Newsletter – cut off date 27 July – and for those interested to put together an entry for a September closing date. All agreed.

7) Liaison reports:

History: SA reported that no meetings had been held so far but that they were hoping to start a new programme in the autumn using local speakers.

MethRep: VB said that everything was still on hold and there was currently nothing to report.

Scouts, WI: No reports.

Shop: The invoice for the repair of the VH door lock had now been paid.

PR reported that Silver threads would probably recommence in September.

8) Housekeeping

JW reported that -

i) Ten corner wall protectors were required and white pvc items costing, in total about £30 had been identified as best serving VH needs. It was agreed to put these on order.

ii) A suitable dishwasher could be obtained for £199 and this was approved. AGM would be asked to plumb it in to the water system.

iii) A microwave cooker could be obtained at £49 and this also was approved.

iv) Additional notices were required for display in various parts of the hall.

v) Damage had also been done to the main light switch, again. LAS was instructed to ask Don York to carry out another repair.

vi) Kitchen cutlery was much reduced and it was agreed to purchase 120 new of each type used.

The Chair –

i) Was concerned about the condition of the covering on the stairs leading to the Committee Room. It was agreed to contract a floor specialist to undertake replacement work.

ii) Drew attention to the need for the guttering to be cleaned out, and LAS agreed to find the name of the company that he had recently employed for this purpose.

iii) The continuing difficulties about meters, the feed in tariff etc had reached the point where she felt an FOI request was the only way to get documentation from British Gas to make plain exactly what was involved. On the proposal of NH/LAS it was agreed to start the procedure.

NH said that he would organise a Fire Risk Assessment by a competent person, possibly from the Fire Brigade.

9) Drains and manholes

LAS reported that he had over several months been communicating with Thames Water regarding their assertion that the VH was responsible for the upkeep of the drain line and manholes around the building. The correspondence had resulted in very little progress on the issue, Thames Water being obdurate about their position. He said that TW appeared to be attempting to dodge the issue of their responsibility for a mains drainage failure causing water to back up into 'tributary' lines such as this. When this happened, it was clearly their responsibility, and they acknowledged this in 2014 by sealing the manholes in the village hall area. The fact that during a July 2020 downpour, the sealing studs in one of these manholes had been popped out by flood water, they had ignored, clearly the flooding was

due to the unsatisfactory capacity of their mains drainage and they must therefore accept the responsibility for replacing the studs that they, themselves, fitted. He continued that the essential question was who, in normal circumstances, was legally responsible for this drainage line, and it is to be argued that since the VH only rents the land on which it has been sited, that the parish council is the responsible body. In order to establish this, it was necessary to access the original lease for the land. In the meantime, there was clearly little purpose in our continuing to debate the matter with Thames Water.

The Chair added that that TW were probably right in their refusal to accept final responsibility but she agreed with LAS that they must be responsible for the mains overflow which entered tributary systems. She had copy of a lease but this did not actually make the exact position very clear. She wanted to see the original lease issued in about 1974 which ought to establish the position accurately. She said that if the Parish Council was in contact with TW about the issue of drainage we should allow them to represent the overall situation. It was clear that our own facilities had not had any responsibility for causing flooding of the drains in the vicinity of the hall. It was agreed, on the Chair's suggestion, that until the original lease had been located, TMVH would do nothing further.

10) Any other business

LAS –

i) Reported that at the Parish Council meeting on 24/05 it had been announced that a council member had been 'appointed to the VH committee', and that he had intervened to prevent this from being actioned. This arose probably from the misunderstanding of his own position, as a councillor and also a TVMH committee member which positions had been entirely independent of each other, and he proposed that TVMH should refuse to accept this 'appointment'. The Chair supported his position; there was no facility for this in the TVMH constitution, committee members had already been elected at our AGM, they could not, therefore 'appoint' someone, it was entirely inappropriate to have a representative of our landlord on the committee. This position being agreed, it was further agreed that the Chair should acquaint the new PC Chair with our response. LAS added a proposal that the 'Chair to Chair' access between the PC and TVMH should be the usual means of liaison between TVMH and the PC.

ii) That the TVMH Facebook was taking off and getting more 'likes' and even 'loves'! He asked that committee members with Facebook pages should access the page and share it with their contacts as a means of further promoting the VH.

The Chair mentioning fund raising, NH said that the Gardiner Arms was willing to do another Pop up Pub though he felt that better promotion and more volunteer staff was necessary before it could go ahead. It was agreed to try to raise interest from volunteers via Tackley Emails.

11) Date of next meeting: Thursday 17 June at 18.00 at the hall.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 19.10