

HERSTMONCEUX VILLAGE HALL

Management Committee Meeting 12 October 2015

Present:- Jo Angear, Sheila Charlton, Karen Hathaway, Mary McBurney,(Chair), Gerald McBurney (Secretary), Ian Stewart, (Treasurer).

Attending:- Rhys Clatworthy (Caretaker).

1. Apologies:-Joyce Burt, Karena Mathew, Bryan Naish, Chris Thompson.

New Committee member:- Sheila Charlton was formally welcomed and co-opted on to the committee.

2. Minutes:-Minutes of 14th September 2015. Agreed as true record and signed.

3. Matters arising:- (a). Memorial plaque. No news. IanS suggested that as Karena M not available we obtain plaque from her before decision on where plaque is to be placed.

Action: IanS. to contact Karena. (b) Bin for nappys has been obtained and is beneath baby changing table. (c) Bryan N. has arranged for clock in lounge to be repaired. (d) Access road. Changes to Lease? Jo A and Ian S. attended PC meeting but Ian S had to declare a conflicting interest and took no part in discussions. It seems the PC is awaiting guidance from Hailsham Roadworks to help assess future possible maintenance costs for guidance when negotiating with surgery. **Action: Ian S./Jo A. to contact PC solicitor**, or Parish Clerk, to try to move-on negotiations re variation of Lease. (e) Bryan N. enquired about 2016 Queens birthday celebrations. No specific news other than castle had apparently been contacted as possible venue but it suggested by Bryan N and Jo A. that such event should be closer to village centre,e.g. West End or village hall. Seems there was no discussion at last PC meeting. If hall going to be needed then availability ought to be kept in mind should a bad weather fall-back be required.(f) Mary McB. and Karen H. had met to discuss issues over closing up and putting chairs away.

4 Hon Treasurers report :-Contact Treasurer for details

5.Caretakers Report. Rhys C. said that his confidence in the hall committee had been damaged through his dissatisfaction with the committee's attitude to the Pre-School group. He thought this had been going on since 2000 and wondered if the group's commercialism was a problem? If that was so we should keep in mind that we have other businesses such as the dancing group, Extend, and possibly even Viewcraft, hiring the hall. Rhys gave examples of substantial financial contributions these groups made to the hall's income. He thought the chairman's recent email to the Pre-School went too far in suggesting that a fire door had been wedged open. Rhys had looked at the CCTV coverage and had concluded that the door was not wedged and that wind could have played a part. Karen H was invited to comment and reminded members that she had taken on the Pre-school when it was going to fold. She had never countenanced fire doors being wedged. Chairs in the small kitchen had never been a problem but she had underlined to staff they were to be put away. The Chairperson said that as a matter of record she had been told that the door was wedged open. She thought the Pre-school was an asset to the village and to the hall. Members were

invited to comment. Most agreed with the Chairperson's view and also that fire precautions must be followed by all users.

Bookings value for 2015 were £38,211 which is an increase over the month of 0.31% giving an 8.75% over end of 2014 figures. For 2016 the value of bookings stands at of £31,759, an increase of 5.21% during the month giving an 8.2% increase on same time last year. 3 weddings were provisionally booked, (for 2017). Electricity usage during last 4 weeks was £261.15. Pumps were, ('crossed fingers'), no problem at present. Karen H. asked if Tumble-Tots had paid outstanding bill. Not yet but to be pursued. Ian S. reminded committee that the computer may need replacing soon. Chairperson to enquire as to whether anyone providing free computers to charities.

Chairperson said Sheila C. and herself were looking at how to publicise the hall particularly using the new wedding photos. Rhys offered to talk with the Web-Master. Chairperson mentioned that business notices were appearing on the hall notice board and wondered if we could have a small board for such advertising and charge a fee? Karen H. Suggested utilising wall opposite current board. Agreed to try it. Rhys and Mary M. to discuss. Ian S said that Parish Council are working towards updating their website making it easier for village groups to advertise their work and facilities.

6.W.D.C.Grant;-Chair mentioned Wealden Community Grant application period due to close end of November. Sheila C. had made contact with a Michelle Gray, the Grants Officer, and Mary M. and Sheila C were to met with her shortly. Grants could be up to £5000. We need to decide which projects to try and fund. Perhaps replacing blown windows and/or improving floor. Getting the necessary 3 quotes could be problem. Rhys and Mary to measure windows.

7. Access Rd Lease:- As mentioned above at para 3(d)

8.Charity Incorporated Organisation:- Treasurer has matter in hand.

9.A.O.B:- Chairperson raised query from Bryan N about fire door to lounge sometimes being locked. Rhys understood that the fire brigade had approved situation in past. After discussion agreed safest if door not locked. Rhys agreed to look at immobilising lever locking.

Next Meeting 9th November.

Cleaning day is Sat 21stNov.