

West Wickham Village Hall Trust

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 20th January 2011 at 8 High Street west Wickham. 8.00 – 9.15 p.m.

Present: Nick Salter (Chairman), Marcus Cornish, Kathy Pelling, Jane Scheuer, Malcolm Cameron, Peter Grieve and Simon Keen

1. Actions arising from meeting held on 9th December 2010

- * Gardening Club Scroll of Honour – this had been erected
- * Harry Hall Shield – Richard Grenville would be requested to erect it along with other maintenance work (see below)
- * Future Maintenance – Richard Grenville had agreed to take this on at a rate of £12 per hour. The Committee agreed this arrangement.
- * Football Club – The Chairman had liaised with the Aido Club to reassure them about the strict conditions which should apply to the Football Club's use of the Hall on Sunday mornings. However, there had as yet been no response from the Football Club regarding the Committee's concerns, nor had they paid any money for their use of the Hall. It was noted that no matches had been played since the last meeting due to the bad weather. The Chairman would continue to follow this up with the Football Club.
- * Village Voice item – The Chairman had written an item for the January Village Voice. There had not been a response to it as yet.

2. Maintenance List

The jobs listed in the 9th December minutes would be addressed by Richard Grenville. The repair of drainpipes was in hand and further progress had been made with external painting of doors. The Committee discussed the possible future need to replace all the light diffusers although no immediate action was required.

3. Fees Review

It was considered that the current fee structure was too complex, compared to other village halls in the area. It was agreed that the fees needed to be restructured. Kathy Pelling agreed to draw up a possible simplified structure.

There may then be a need to review prices, taking into account increased costs and prices charged for similar facilities, including for pre school groups, in the area.

4. Car Park Options

The Committee considered that some form of resurfacing of the car park was desirable but possibly too expensive in the light of the reserves of the Trust,

depending on what was required. The issue of drainage, and what if any was needed, was a matter to be taken into account.

Marcus Cornish agreed to look into the feasibility and estimated costs of resurfacing the car park and report to a future meeting

5. Website

It was agreed that the Village Hall would benefit from having a website to show fees and facilities. Jane Scheuer agreed to talk to Clare Butfield and Simon Keen to Sue Harrow, either of whom may possibly be interested in designing a website for the Hall.

6. Signboard

The signboard in front of the Hall adjoining the road had been vandalised some years ago and never repaired. It was now considered to be an eyesore and the Committee agreed that it should be removed.

7. Energy Costs

The cost of electricity was a significant factor in the overall running costs of the Hall. The Committee discussed possible ways of reducing them. One possibility was to start paying bills by direct debit, although there was concern that a contract for two years may see lower bills in the first year, only for them to increase again in the following year.

Another more radical idea was to have solar panels installed on the roof. It was understood that there was a scheme whereby the electricity company rented the roof and installed the panels; then supplied free energy to the Hall, whilst selling surplus energy to the Grid. It was agreed that this idea should be investigated and Kathy Pelling agreed to speak to Martin Kershaw, who had some expertise in this area, to see if he would be willing to advise the Management Committee.

8. Meeting Frequency / Next Meeting

It was agreed that The Committee should meet on a quarterly basis. Meetings for 2011 were fixed for 17th March, 16th June and 15th September (AGM)