



Goring Village Hall

Minutes of Village Hall Management Committee Meeting (held on Zoom) Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Mike Baker (MB) (Chair), John Barrett (JB), Jack Calder (JC), Phil Davies (PD), Mark Kibble (MK), Bernard Novell (BLN), Linda Palmer (LP), Steve Smith (SS), Roger Wood (RW)

In minutes: booking secretary Bill Norman (BN), caretaker Paul Carter (PC).

Item		Action
1. Apologies	Bill Jackson (BJ), Bryan Urbick (BU).	
2. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes were approved and passed for publication on the GVH website.	BLN
3. Matters arising	<p>The Hall's website and social media had been updated. Bike racks and dog rings had been installed. Colin Silvester had put in audio extension leads (and they had been used by U3A). The PA mixer was back and working. The missing thermometer and equipment had turned up.</p> <p>All other matters arising had been dealt with or are discussed under headings below.</p>	
4. Chairman's report	<p>MB reported that the Hall was back in business. U3A had already resumed meetings and other regular hirers were making bookings. The Arts Society had decided to delay until January because of the high rate of covid infections. There had been a wedding reception and the hirer had been very complimentary, and provided photos, which MB would forward to BLN to include on the Hall website. BLN mentioned that the Hall had been used for his mother's memorial service, and it had gone very well. MB had shown various people round who were thinking of hiring the Hall for a party and a booking had been made for a party with 150 guests expected.</p> <p>BJ had renewed the Hall's insurance at a slightly higher cost, and MB would put up the new employment liability certificate.</p>	<p>MB, BLN</p> <p>MB</p>

	<p>The Hall's website landing page made clear that hirers were responsible for their insurance and this was also stated on the booking contract.</p>	
5. Treasurer's report	<p>Up to the end of August we had spent £17,193 against a budget of £21,467, so we are underspent by £4,254. We had received £30,414 income against a budgeted amount of £17,900. Therefore, overall, we have received £13,222 more than we have spent for the year so far. This is reflected in the bank balance, which stood at £46,632 as of the end of August.</p> <p>The majority of the income has come from SODC in covid-related grants (£18,708) and a grant for the heating repair (£5,000). However, in recent weeks bookings have started to come in again.</p> <p>In summary, we are in a strong position financially.</p> <p>We have had a long-running issue with our water supplier, Castle Water. Last year they changed our water meter. We were paying £88 in direct debits and because we were closed SS contacted them to stop the payments. In June we received a bill for £507.40, which contained many errors, including charges for the old disconnected meter. Before SS had time to query it they took the money direct from our account. SS spent a lot of time trying to contact them and eventually in the absence of a resolution went to their complaints department. After an initial acknowledgement there was no further reply but they sent a series of bills (two at a time) showing they owed money to us, which by the end of August had escalated to over £2,000. SS then decided to go to the independent ombudsman as Castle Water had failed to follow their own complaints procedure. When he told Castle Water this, they paid £2,160 into our account on 7 September. The ombudsman sent an acknowledgement after 3 weeks (blaming covid for the delay). SS proposed to let this run its course, hold on to the £2,160 for now (though he did not think we were owed that much) and see what happened when we submitted our next meter reading. BLN suggested taking monthly meter readings so that we knew the position. RW mentioned that GPC were also having trouble with Castle Water, and it might be worth considering switching to a different supplier. SS would look into this.</p>	SS
6. Environmental project report	<p>RW had obtained a range of quotes for gas and electricity from Utility Aid and had selected SSE's as the best to meet the Hall's green objectives, since their renewable energy deal provided energy derived wholly from renewable sources, whereas other companies' renewable deals were based to some extent on fossil fuels energy offset by carbon credits (and many did not offer renewable energy deals to small businesses at all). Gas and</p>	

	<p>electricity prices were set to rise substantially in general, but RW provided figures based on SSE's quotes which showed that going green would increase the Hall's costs even more. (MB calculated they would increase annual gas and electricity costs from £1700 to £2640.) RW was aware that we wanted to consider switching from gas to electric heating but thought this was unlikely to happen within the two years covered by the SSE quote. MB had recently received an email from British Gas about what they could offer, which he would forward to RW. RW would continue working on this and hoped to be able to circulate firm figures by the beginning of October.</p> <p>JB raised the question of increasing hire fees to cover the extra costs. BLN said hire fees had last been increased in April 2017 (and fees for the Garden Room had remained unchanged since 2012). The Committee thought the significant investment by the Hall in recent years as well as higher energy costs and likely reduction in bookings in the coming year would justify an increase, though it would be important to ensure that the Hall remained competitive. MB and SS would consider.</p> <p>MK had made little progress on the proposed heat recovery system. He had tried to find local contractors but everyone was busy or on holiday (and he himself had been on holiday). He knew that the Committee would also like to see the system in operation. He would press on, and hoped to be able to update the Committee within the next few weeks.</p> <p>PD had made no further progress on investigating IR heating.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>MB/SS</p> <p>MK</p> <p>PD</p>
7. Social media	<p>JB had updated the Hall's social media on the Hall's availability. He also aimed to post details about upcoming events open to the public, but it was sometimes hard to tell whether bookings were firm and it was also difficult to tell from the bookings exactly what was going to happen, so people often had to rely on Genie or GGN for this information. BJ had booked the Hall for 23 October and 11 and 18 December (MB said BJ had confirmed these bookings were definite), but there was no detail about the events on the Goring Jazz Gig website or the Goring Hall Live website, which were no longer being maintained. (BJ and John Calvert were both reducing their involvement in running the jazz evenings.) The Comedy Live website was up to date and he would publicise the event planned for October (though MK said that in practice all the tickets were already taken).</p>	
8. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	<p>MB went in detail through the list of MRI jobs reporting the latest position on each as far as he was aware. BLN updated the list (held in the Hall's Dropbox) accordingly. LP said that PC thought he could do most of the jobs, and indeed might already have done some of those thought to be outstanding.</p>	

	<p>The floor had been re-polished and looked very good.</p> <p>The Belleme Cockerel had been repaired by Public Clocks but was still to be re-gilded. MB estimated that it would be put back up in a month or so. He would arrange publicity in GGN.</p> <p>JB had heard nothing further from OCC regarding FTTP.</p> <p>The electric hand dryer in the gents' toilet had failed and Colin Silvester confirmed it was beyond repair. The Committee agreed that we should continue providing paper towels for now, and only consider replacing the dryer once covid levels were down.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>JB</p>
10. Any other business	<p>BLN reported that the Hall notice boards were full, sometimes with items that were nothing to do with the village let alone the Hall. He would remove them.</p> <p>BLN wondered whether the idea, previously discussed, of putting up an awning over the patio should be looked at again. It was decided to leave this until after Christmas.</p> <p>JB mentioned the possibility of covid restrictions being re-imposed. It was agreed that in that case a special meeting might have to be called.</p>	
11. Dates of future meetings	17 Nov 21, 19 January 22, 16 March 22, 18 May 22, 20 July 22, 21 Sept 22, 16 Nov 22.	All