



Goring Village Hall

Minutes of Village Hall Management Committee Meeting (held on Zoom) Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Mike Baker (MB) (Chair), Jack Calder (JC), Mark Kibble (MK), Bernard Novell (BLN), Roger Wood (RW)

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

Item		Action
1. Apologies	John Barrett (JB), Phil Davies (PD), Bill Jackson (BJ), Linda Palmer (LP), Steve Smith (SS), 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 increase in the Hall's future energy costs was now known (see below) but since there was a large balance in the bank it had been decided not to consider raising hire fees until after the AGM.</p> <p>English Public Clocks had repaired and re-gilded the Belleme cockerel but a date for re-installing it had not yet been arranged.</p> <p>JB had still heard nothing further from OCC regarding FTTP, but the Hall's internet was currently working well.</p> <p>All other matters arising had been dealt with or are discussed under headings below.</p>	
4. Chairman's report	<p>Hirers were steadily coming back, though some, such as the Arts Society, would not resume till next year. The Craft Fair would be held this coming weekend. No new government rules or restrictions had been announced. Hirers were advised what measures the Hall had put in place and it was up to them to decide how to minimise risk.</p> <p>A two year green energy deal had now been agreed with SSE, starting in February. Reflecting the substantial recent increase</p>	

	<p>in energy prices, this would increase the Hall's energy costs by 169%, to roughly £7500 compared with the £3000 budgeted. Utility Aid had recommended sealing the deal now, since any future reduction in energy prices resulting from Nord Stream 2 was likely to be temporary. MB thanked RW for arranging this, which would make the current heating system as green and carbon neutral as possible.</p> <p>MB proposed holding the AGM on 9 February if he could persuade the martial arts society to end their booking for that evening early.</p>	MB
5. Treasurer's report	<p>SS had circulated the latest monthly accounts. Bookings were coming in at around £2000 per month, and there was £48783 in the bank (though this still included some payments in advance), so the Hall was still in a strong financial position.</p> <p>Turning to the dispute with Castle Water, MB was providing SS with regular meter readings. We had made a complaint to Ofwat, who had referred it to a body called CCW, but they would not take it up until Castle Water's own complaints procedure was exhausted. Castle Water had not invoiced or charged us for the last two quarters (SS had cancelled our direct debit) so it was proposed to wait and see what they did next.</p>	
6. Environmental project report	<p>MB was unaware of any further progress on investigating IR heating.</p> <p>MK reported progress on his investigations into heat recovery systems. He was still trying to fully understand what was possible, technically and to meet regulations and industry standards. Local contractors were currently very busy, but he had managed to arrange a visit by one reputable contractor based in Bracknell, and another reputable contractor based in Reading was due to call next week. The first contractor said it might be difficult to achieve as much heat recovery as we might like, but the loft provided a suitable site for a heating unit with ducting into the Main Hall roof space, which would provide ventilation, air heating and, if required, air cooling at a cost of £15000, excluding electrical works. MK would obtain the other contractor's recommendations and quotation, would continue improving his understanding of the technical and regulatory issues, and would present his conclusions at the next meeting. He was likely to recommend paying for independent professional advice before proceeding with any proposal.</p> <p>The Committee thanked MK for his work. It sounded promising, possibly in conjunction with IR heating. It would be good if the committee could see such a system in operation.</p>	<p>PD</p> <p>MK</p>

	RW said he would make enquiries through Tessa Hall, with MK's help, to see if any advice was available on what was suitable for village halls such as ours.	RW/MK
7. Social media	JB had advised MB that he was keeping on top of advertising activities at the Hall through social media	
8. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	<p>MB went in detail through and updated the list of MRI jobs reporting progress on each as far as he was aware. One job with no clear ownership at the moment was replacing the damaged critical window at the front of the Hall, and he would try to find suitable specialist advice.</p> <p>Two additions to the list were proposed – flickering lights in the Main Hall and Belleme Room (PC was keeping an eye on this problem) and Portable Appliance Testing.</p> <p>MK recognised that with hiring still not yet back to normal and a major review of the heating system already underway, now might not be the time to embark on new projects, but he thought it might be worth starting to think about what future improvements should be planned, perhaps starting with a survey of Hall users' opinions.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB/BLN</p>
10. Any other business	BLN mentioned that he would stand down from the Committee at the next AGM, but would happily continue to edit the website and provide advice and information if asked.	
11. Dates of future meetings	19 January 22, 9 February 22 (AGM), 23 March 22, 18 May 22, 20 July 22, 21 Sept 22, 16 Nov 22.	All