



**Minutes of Village Hall Management Committee Meeting  
Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Mike Baker (MB) (Chair), Jack Calder (JC), John Barrett (JB) Phil Davies (PD), Bill Jackson (BJ), Mark Kimble (MK), Linda Palmer (LP)  
(In minutes Paul Carter (PC))

Item		Action
1. Apologies	Steve Smith (SS), Bryan Urbick (BU), Roger Wood (RW)	
2. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes were approved and passed for publication on the GVH website.	
3. Matters arising	All matters arising had been dealt with other than those discussed under headings below.	
4. Chairman's report	<p><b>Covid-19 update</b> – Things were getting back to normal with the ending of all legal restrictions. The 2 metre markings and posters had been taken down, the one way system was no longer in use, and simultaneous bookings were now allowed. Posters with recommendations to hirers remained up, hand sanitiser was still provided and PC was still cleaning between hires (possibly with the odd exception). It was agreed to continue with those measures for now but keep them under review.</p> <p><b>NEOS Networks</b> – The new fibre optic cable had now been installed. Further hardware including a new router was awaited, which MB had asked for as soon as possible (a new plug and possibly a shelf would have to be fitted). Until then wifi would be provided under the contract with Plusnet, but this was about to expire. It would be renewed on a monthly basis (at £49 a month) and terminated as soon as the new system was working.</p> <p><b>Goring Gap Festival</b> - The organisers had originally booked the Hall for two weeks but had now released the dates not required. The Hall would be used extensively for 6-8 events. JB would look into publicising this activity on our social media. MB had warned PC that it would involve</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>JB</p>

	<p>lots of work for him</p> <p><b>Doors being left open</b> - There had been no further problems.</p> <p><b>PAT Testing</b> – This had not been done yet. MB would contact Bernard Novell about the equipment.</p> <p><b>Brown Bin</b> – SODC had confirmed that the Hall could apply for one.</p> <p><b>Electric Window</b> – Wallingford Glass would fix this but had not yet done so.</p> <p><b>Bookings Diary</b> – When the diary is accessed by phone the information is sometimes different (with less detail) from when it is accessed by computer or i-pad. This can cause problems for PC, who relies on his phone to find out what he needs to do. MB had raised this with Hallmaster, but they need specific examples in order to investigate the problem further.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
5. Treasurer's report	<p>SS had circulated the latest monthly accounts, which show income of £6485 and expenditure of £3343 (mainly £2500 on the Belleme Cockerel), but the expenditure did not include the month's gas bill of around £1200, twice the previous level. The impact of higher energy costs on the Hall's finances would need to be watched, but in the meantime with around £56000 in the bank there seems no justification for raising hire charges.</p> <p>SS had suggested it might be appropriate to find a new treasurer since he no longer lives locally and cannot regularly attend meetings. MB would put something in GGN, but was not optimistic about getting a response.</p>	<p>MB</p>
6. Environmental project report	<p>MK reported that progress was still slow because in the current building boom it was difficult to get any free advice, but on the basis of what he had learned so far he had drafted a document setting out the Hall's broad requirements. He had obtained comments from PD, which he would incorporate. He proposed to circulate the draft round the Committee for any further comments. He had previously approached a consultant for advice but what he proposed was far too expensive and detailed. MK hoped that more limited consultancy input could be obtained to help work up his draft into a formal tendering document to be used for obtaining quotes. Essentially the requirement would be for a radiant heating and ventilation system but possibly including additional options. It was agreed that</p>	

	<p>MK should circulate his draft.</p> <p>LP pointed out that a radiant heating system had previously been installed in the Garden Room but proved very unpopular and was therefore removed. PD said a radiant heating system should work better in the Main Hall and Belleme Room because the ceilings were higher, and there would be options to optimise the wave length used.</p> <p>BJ suggested thought should be given to supplementing any new heating system with photo-voltaic panels. Some years ago he had obtained planning permission for the Hall to fit them but it did not proceed.</p> <p>JB suggested it might be appropriate in due course to carry out an analysis of the benefits of any new heating system in order to justify the substantial costs. MB mentioned that grants were quite likely to be available for the work.</p>	MK
7. Social media	<p>JB reported that his approach over the last two years had been very low key since there was simply not enough activity at the Hall to generate interest. He hoped the Festival would provide material for a relaunch.</p>	
8. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	<p><b>Replacement cooker</b> – RW had found a suitable model and obtained a quote. It would cost £2900. Colin Silvester had provided various options for electrical installation; his quote for the option favoured was £778. A quote had not yet been obtained from Harry Denison for disconnection of the gas supply, but on the assumption this would be in the region of £150 the total cost would be just over £3800. It was agreed that RW should proceed with the purchase and installation. It would not be possible to arrange it before the Festival, but the existing cooker would be adequate for any need.</p> <p><b>Hand dryers</b> – The hand dryer in the gents’ toilet was not working properly. It had been out of use during the pandemic restrictions, but it was agreed it should now be replaced. MB proposed installing an air blade system, which would cost around £500 (but not a Dyson, which would cost much more). He would obtain a quote.</p> <p><b>Flickering lights</b> – LP would ask PC to replace the bulbs that were flickering.</p> <p><b>Gas</b> – Colin Silvester reported a slight smell of gas near the middle heater, but the heaters had all been recently serviced. MB would ask RW to keep an eye out for any problems.</p>	<p>RW</p> <p>MB</p> <p>LP</p> <p>MB/RW</p>

<p>10. Any other business</p>	<p>MB had been asked by the Goring PCC Clerk if the Hall wished to make a contribution to a report the PCC had to make on the response to the pandemic. It would have to be provided by 23 May. It was agreed not to contribute.</p> <p>MK mentioned that a difficulty he had in arranging dates for the Comedy Club was that on Wednesdays and Thursdays the Hall was booked by commercial hirers from late afternoon up to 7.30, which made any evening booking impracticable. Currently it was left to hirers to sort out any clashes between themselves, but it was doubtful whether these hirers would agree to end their bookings early. He wondered whether the committee should intervene in such cases, or alternatively whether there should be some limitations on commercial hire where it interfered with other evening bookings. MB was very much against the committee involving itself in negotiations between hirers. The committee discussed at some length the idea of rules limiting hire, and identified various issues, such as whether a clear distinction between commercial and non-commercial hires was possible, and whether limiting afternoon bookings would be more likely to lose rather than win business overall, given that hirers often had reasons for hiring at specific times of day. MB proposed putting off further discussion until the committee had time to review the wording of the current hire agreement and the times of current Hall usage.</p>	
<p>11. Dates of future meetings</p>	<p>20 July 22, 21 Sept 22, 16 Nov 22.</p>	<p>All</p>