



Goring Village Hall

Minutes of Village Hall Management Committee Meeting (held on Zoom) Wednesday 18 January 2023 at 7.30pm

Present: Mike Baker (MB) (Chair), Jack Calder (JC), Phil Davies (PD), Emma Horwill (EH), Linda Palmer (LP), Lecky Thompson (LT), Roger Wood (RW).
(In minutes Paul Carter (PC) Bernard Novell (BLN))

Item		Action
1. Apologies	John Barrett (JB), Bill Jackson (BJ), Mark Kibble (MK), Steve Smith (SS), Bryan Urbick (BU)	
2. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes were approved and passed for publication on the GVH website.	
3. Matters arising	<p>All matters arising had been dealt with apart from the following:</p> <p>The parking lines had not yet been repainted.</p> <p>The wall hand sanitiser in the Garden Room had not yet been replaced.</p> <p>MK had done further work on the TV monitor but instructions on use had not yet been produced.</p> <p>Research into improving the front door was continuing.</p> <p>LP had established that SODC would supply green and black bins but they could only be used for waste from Goring Parish Council business. MB had discussed bins with BLN, and concluded they would be more trouble than they were worth. One reason hirers were leaving more rubbish than previously was that the Hall now supplied pedal bins. Possibly these could be withdrawn at a future date.</p> <p>MB and MK had looked into replacing Dropbox with Google Drive. They found that Google Drive could meet the Hall's needs satisfactorily. There might be a small fee,</p>	<p>LP/PC</p> <p>RW</p> <p>MK</p> <p>MK</p>

	<p>but it would be worth it to avoid the problems experienced with Dropbox. Further work was needed to establish how all the files in Dropbox could be moved to Google Drive.</p>	MB
4. Chairman's report	<p>MB welcomed EH and LT to their first meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>Publicity – MB had written an article on the Hall for GGN at their request, which would appear in this month's edition. He would prepare a notice about the forthcoming AGM for GGN, Genie and the Hall website.</p> <p>Covid – Cases were on the rise again but there was no need to change the current approach.</p> <p>Trees – MB had agreed with the owner of the property next to the Hall that the Hall would trim tree branches overhanging Hall land. PC had carried out this work, which involved hiring a scaffolding tower and buying a new pruner, but because of a communication failure he pruned the trees by more than the agreed amount. The trees were subject to a Tree Preservation Order and the owner was concerned that SODC's Tree Officer might become aware of and object to what had been done. MB had assured him that the Hall would take responsibility for dealing with any problems raised by the Tree Officer.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
5. Treasurer's report	<p>The draft annual accounts for 2022 had been prepared and circulated to Trustees for comment. They will be presented at the AGM on March 29th for approval and subsequent submission to the Charity Commission.</p> <p>Income in 2022 was £38,094 and although this was slightly lower than 2021 (£40,442) in 2021 the income was boosted by over £23,000 of grants. Bookings income recovered in 2022 and although not quite as high as pre-Covid levels was more than double the 2021 bookings income.</p> <p>Expenditure was £25,498 and very similar to 2021. The only large capital item purchased was a new cooker. We therefore had a surplus of £12,596 to carry forward into 2023.</p> <p>The bank balance was healthy with £59,069 in our accounts at the end of the year. The balance sheet increased by £1,000 over the last 12 months.</p> <p>The handover to LT, the new Treasurer, is almost complete. There was a hold up by Lloyds Bank in adding him as a signature on the account to allow him to make</p>	

	<p>payments. The necessary forms had now been submitted and SS would continue to sign cheques in the meantime.</p> <p>MB said he was not too embarrassed by the large bank balance given the Hall's likely financial commitments over the next few years.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would not be necessary to raise hire charges in 2023, given the Hall's large bank balance and favourable energy contract. EH said this would be welcome to hirers, many of whom faced tough conditions in the current economic climate.</p>	
6. Environmental project report	<p>RW reported that work on this was ongoing. Comments had been given to MK on his paper and he was proceeding to obtain consultancy advice on how the Hall's needs could best be met taking the nature of the building into account.</p> <p>RW pointed out that the Hall would probably face a very steep rise in costs when its current energy contract expired in 2024.</p> <p>LT said that he and some friends were researching combining use of battery power with "agile" tariffs (i.e. purchasing electricity at times of day when it was cheapest). A battery required substantial outlay, and MB pointed out that the Hall's power requirements were high. But it would be worth exploring this option for the Hall, and NLT would give RW the figures he had gathered.</p> <p>RW had arranged for the annual certification of the Hall's heaters to be carried out in February.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>LT/RW</p>
7. Social media	<p>EH had done a few small updates, but was mainly still familiarising herself with the Hall's systems. MB mentioned that the bookings diary on the Hall website gave some indication of hirers willing to have events publicised and there was also information on Hallmaster.</p>	
8. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	<p>MB had circulated to the Committee a letter from U3A about discussions they had had with Colin Silvester about fixing up a spotlight. This would be helpful for their meetings, particularly where people attended on Zoom. MB thought the Hall should offer to contribute up to £200 towards the cost, since this would be a permanent piece of Hall infrastructure which might also be of use to other hirers (though they might have different preferences as to which exact spot should be lighted).</p>	<p>MB</p>

	<p>LP mentioned that work on PC's agenda included fixing the holes in the internal doors and various jobs in the Garden Room and ladies' toilet.</p> <p>MB said it was probably time to carry out a tour of the building to identify other jobs that needed doing. For example, it was some time since the soffit and barge boards had been painted.</p>	MB
9. Sensory garden	<p>EH had raised the idea of making more of the garden and perhaps seeking funding from SODC to create a sensory garden. She had discussed this idea with Maggie F-Rivers, who said SODC were particularly keen on supporting projects that provided facilities for children. She had not yet given much thought to what exactly this might involve, since she needed to find out more about the garden and its current use. LP proposed arranging a meeting with EH to help with this. LP was a member of Goring in Bloom, and thought it would also be worth asking them for any ideas.</p> <p>MB said careful thought should be given to any ongoing maintenance requirements.</p>	EH/LP
10. Goring Gap Players	<p>The GGP Committee had raised the possibility of swapping the upstairs room they used, but having established that the other room was used by a number of hirers apart from Goring Unplugged, PD thought it might be too much of an upheaval. He wondered, however, if it would be possible to fit a lock to GGP's room. MB pointed out that a number of parties needed access through the room to the clock loft. RW suggested that since a key to the lock would have to be kept in the key safe, it would not really provide any additional security. PD was not sure whether there had actually been problems with items going missing from the room. He would go back to the GGP Committee.</p>	PD
11. Any other business	<p>LP mentioned that Woodcote VH had taken over the Christmas Fair last year and it had been a success. If Goring VH contemplated running the Fair this year, it would need a lot of planning and we should make sure before embarking on this that Woodcote were not planning to run it again themselves. MB would do this.</p>	MB
12. Dates of future meetings	22.3.23, 29.3.23 (AGM), 10.5.23, 12.7.23, 20.9.23, 15.11.23	All