



**Minutes of Village Hall Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday 6 November 2024 at 7.30pm**

Present: Mike Baker (MB) (Chair), Jack Calder (JC), Bill Jackson (BJ), Mark Kibble (MK), Linda Palmer (LP), Lecky Thompson (LT), Roger Wood (RW)
(In minutes Paul Carter (PC), Bill Norman (BN), Colin Silvester (CS), Emma Horswill (EH))

Item		Action
1. Apologies	Phil Davies (PD),	
2. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes were approved and passed for publication on the GVH website.	
3. Matters arising	<p>MB was still looking into moving the Hall's documents from Dropbox to Google Drive.</p> <p>The white edging of the stage still needed repainting.</p> <p>The water butt still appeared not to be working. RW would look into.</p> <p>PD had undertaken to research blinds further following discussion at the last meeting but had not yet reported back.</p> <p>No new Committee members had been suggested but Toby Thurston was now responsible for VH matters on the Parish Council, and RW would find out if he was interested in joining the Committee.</p> <p>PC had not yet painted yellow hatched lines next to the defibrillator.</p> <p>BN had amended the Hall's terms of hire to say that use of inflatable equipment was not allowed.</p> <p>Dates for next year's Committee meetings were included in the minutes of the last meeting.</p> <p>Other matters arising are dealt with under the headings below.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>LP/PC</p> <p>RW</p> <p>PD</p> <p>RW</p> <p>LP/PC</p>
4. Chairman's report	Heat Miser had proposed changing the app for controlling the heater thermostats with immediate effect and advised that the new app would not work for heaters with older thermostats. MB had protested vigorously, and Heat Miser had eventually agreed to reduce the prices for new	

	<p>thermostats and to allow the old app to continue working up to January. CS had now installed new thermostats for all the remaining heaters. The new app did not yet appear to be working entirely satisfactorily.</p> <p>The Arts Society had reported an item of lost property. LP had had gathered all the lost property together (which did not include the reported item) and had arranged for a photograph of it to be placed in GGN (with no response so far). LP would replace the Hall's Lost Property box, which was cracked.</p> <p>The Hall's loudspeakers were defective and MB had asked MK to investigate replacing them. MK had identified suitable speakers made by Electro-Voice, which would cost £1000 for a pair, along with further minor costs for brackets and assistance from CS with installation. The Committee approved this expenditure.</p>	<p>LP</p> <p>MK</p>
<p>5. Treasurer's report</p>	<p>LT's latest report had been circulated to members. On bookings, we were well ahead of last year, only £2k short of the budget figure of £40k, with two months of the year to go.</p> <p>Expenditure was £12k below budget, but this would be reduced when the £4k for consultation on the heating project was paid. One expense which had increased compared with last year was water. It was not clear if this was because of higher use or higher charges. (See further discussion at section 8 below.) The capital budget of £4k would more than cover the cost of the new speakers.</p> <p>Interest on the deposit account to date was a worthwhile £1.3k. LT reminded the Committee that 95 days' notice was required for withdrawals. The Hall had nearly £82k at the bank at the end of October.</p> <p>LT had also circulated a draft expenditure budget for 2025. The total budget was £48k, compared with £46.7k in the revised 2024 budget. This did not include the cost of the heating project.</p> <p>RW mentioned that the purpose of the heating project was to move from gas to electricity, and wondered whether we should therefore replace the gas water heater and boiler. MB said this could be considered as a further project when the main heating project was completed, but meanwhile he was reluctant to replace items that were relatively new and in good working order. The new heating system would have to be compatible with whatever ultimately replaced</p>	

	<p>these items.</p> <p>MB asked Committee members to let LT know of any further expenditure to be included in the budget. One point that occurred to him was that deferred work on maintenance of the floor and ceiling would have to be carried out after completion of the heating project.</p> <p>LT mentioned that the current free broadband deal would end in September 2025. MB said that the Hall was not committed to staying with the same provider and other potential providers could be considered.</p>	All
6. Environmental project report	<p>MK reported that investigations had continued on the choice between an air-to-air and air-to-water system. The latter would be significantly more expensive and require the installation of an expansion tank (it was not clear where). A similar Hall to ours had given a very positive and encouraging account of their air-to-air system. It was quick to warm up, there were no draughts or cold spots at ground level and no problems with noise. A visit to see it was being arranged. RW said it would be important to consider the visual impact of the heaters. BJ thought it would be worthwhile investigating what heating system was used at the Great Hall in Cholsey.</p> <p>MK was working on an approved development application to SODC for the external units at the back of the Hall and their enclosure. This would cost £230 and establish whether planning permission was required. He had obtained Land Registry documents for the Hall including plans but for various reasons it was not possible to modify these, so he had instead drawn a simple plan of what was proposed. It was thought SODC's main concern would be visual and acoustic impact, and that detailed structural plans and technical specifications would not be required for this purpose. (They would be needed later but decisions on who should prepare them could be left till then.) RW offered to work with MK on this matter.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the plans would need to leave room for the Hall's bins.</p> <p>MK said that thought would have to be given to applications for grants and their timing. On the one hand donors might be unwilling to provide funds if the Hall had already committed itself to the project, but on the other they would need sufficient details of what was proposed. MB identified three possible sources of grants: national, local authority, and local charities such as GGN, the</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>MK/RW</p>

	Gatehampton Trust and Mend the Gap. MB would review the many communications he had received about possible national grants and would also review what local charities had supported the stage project. MK would talk to Mend the Gap. RW would ask Bryan Urbick about the SODC grants provided when the Hall replaced its gas heaters.	MB MK RW
7. Social media	Since EH has stood down there was no social media report. LP's daughter Anna was, however, willing to take over responsibility for this, and if she reported any significant developments, LP would relay them to the Committee.	
8. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	<p>LP reported that the ladies' toilet had been repainted and looked good. PC had advised LP of the matters on his to do list, including those raised by the Committee. One outstanding matter was that the urinal in the gents' toilet needed attention (which might be contributing to higher water bills). Harry Denison had initially indicated the cost would be high but PC was finding it difficult to get any further response from him, and asked if the Committee could help. MB would contact Harry.</p> <p>MB said that re-painting the Hall's outside woodwork should be added to the to do list.</p>	MB LP/PC
9. Any other business	<p>LP said someone from the Committee ought to be in attendance when PC put up the Christmas decorations.</p> <p>LP had heard that EH had written to stallholders to say she would not be running the Food Fair at Goring. We would have to find out if she had effectively said it was cancelled, and, if so, decide whether to correct that (which would depend on whether we could find someone else to run it).</p>	LP/MB/PC LP/MB
10. Dates of future meetings	15-Jan-25, 19-Mar-25, 21-May-25, 16-Jul-25, 17-Sep-25, 19-Nov-25	All