Goring Village Hall

Minutes of Village Hall Management Committee Meeting
Wednesday 16 July 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Mike Baker (MB) (Chair), Jack Calder(JC), Phil Davies(PD), Bill Jackson (BJ), Mark Kibble (MK)
(In minutes Paul Carter (PC), Bill Norman (BN), Colin Silvester (CS))

Item		Action
1. Apologies	Linda Palmer (LP), Lecky Thompson (LT), Roger Wood (RW)	
2. Minutes of last meeting	The minutes were approved and passed for publication on the GVH website.	
3. Matters arising	The yellow hatched lines next to the defibrillator had now been repainted. MK and MB had had discussions with Brian McKenzie about joining the Committee. He would be invited to the next meeting. MB had not yet contacted the Great Hall in Cholsey to discuss their heating system. The PAT testing remained to be done. MB had confirmed that the hire agreement required any hirers using electrical equipment to have it PAT tested. CS had done some work on re-cabling the new projector but it still needed to repositioned. Members of U3A and the Arts Group would shortly receive instruction on use of the PA system. MK had sold the old mixer on E Bay for £470 (the new mixer cost £710). LP had held further discussions with PC about increasing charges to hirers for his services. He proposed increasing the current rates of £10, £20 and £30 to £18, £27 and £36 respectively. This seemed acceptable but the basis on which the different charges were applied might need clarification. This would not affect the standard hire charges, but these had remained unchanged for some years and should be reviewed for next year.	MB MB RW MB/CS MB LP/MB MB/LT

	LP had purchased 4 new tables to replace ones that were defective. (These still had to be disposed of). BJ had discussed the new "Martin's Law" with Tessa Hall. She had confirmed that it applied to venues with a capacity of 200 or more (which would include Goring Village Hall), but two years were allowed for implementation. Some of the requirements appeared onerous and impractical for Village Halls, and it was hoped that they would be relaxed in some way. In the meantime she had not yet prepared any guidance on implementation. The Committee noted that it was obliged to implement this law within 2 years and needed to keep this matter under review. PC had examined the condition of the Hall's chairs. He had replaced any missing rubber feet. All the chairs were in adequate condition, though some were slightly worn. The fire detection system had been fixed. Minor jobs still to be done included replacing a cracked knob on the dimmer switch and replacing a cracked socket near one of the MH gas heaters.	MB MB/CS RW
4. Chairman's report	It had been agreed with Hartslock Ice Creams that if they hired a room in the Hall then for that period they could use their parking space at the front to sell ice creams. MB and MK had organised various visits to the Hall relating to the heating project (discussed at item 6 below). A visit by Stephanie Bridle to the Hall to discuss Goring in Bloom had brought attention to the broken bench at the front of the Hall. Attempts to find a sponsor for a replacement had been unsuccessful, so a new bench had been purchased and installed at a cost of £295. PC had pressure-washed the path to the Garden Room. He had begun work on trimming the lime trees overhanging the path. (The owner of the neighbouring property raised concerns the last time this was done, which MB might have to deal with again). SODC had announced a new policy of not collecting brown bins from institutions. This affected a number of organisations in the village including the Hall. ACRE had told SODC they had misinterpreted government regulations, which permitted brown bin collection from non-commercial institutions, but SODC had not so far accepted this. LT had contacted SODC, and they had said they would collect brown bins from a single institutional location in the village, which would be the Hall. The Community Centre had heard about this and asked to share the Hall's brown bins, and it was possible other such	

	requests would follow. The Committee agreed a proposal from MB to increase BN's hourly pay. It had not been increased for some years.	
5. Treasurer's report	LT had circulated the most recent figures up to 30 June. On bookings, we were £1k ahead of target for this year (though £3.6k behind bookings for the same period last year. We continue to receive savings interest (£2.4k to date) and remain £1.8k above income budget for the year June was a high month for expenses - £7.8k vs £4k monthly budget – resulting from payment of the heating project consultation fee (£3.7k), a balancing water use payment (£1.1k) and purchase of new bench (£0.3k). Gas and electricity expense is £1.1k ahead of budget for the year. At 30 June we had £76.9k in the bank, a decrease of £4.4k. MB mentioned that the heating project should reduce heating costs compared with what they would otherwise be. A new contract had to be negotiated in October, which would determine ongoing costs.	
6. Environmental project report	MK reported that the specification for the heating project had been completed by the consultants. MK had sent it out to 5 companies along with an invitation to tender and a tender form. 4 of the companies had undertaken to submit a response by the deadline of 8 August. They had been told that their bids must be compliant with the specification, to ensure like-for-like comparison, but they are free to add comments separately. Further enquiries will inevitably arise on the bids, and further consultancy advice may be needed, but it is hoped to complete this by the end of August. The results will then be circulated to the Committee, with the aim of allowing them to reach a decision at their next meeting on 17th September, and also determine the timing of implementation (whether in one or two stages) and arrangements for closing the Hall to hirers. MK's expectation was that the successful bid will be in the £50-60k range, but of course this is uncertain. Application for grants towards the cost will also be discussed at the meeting. PD said that SODC required any application to be made within the next week, which was not practicable, and in any case they would not make payment before February next year. ACRE were more flexible on grants, and seemed the best prospect, but PD would investigate other possible sources of grants before the next	MK PD

	meeting.	
7. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	PC had provided a work plan including repainting in the Garden Room, repainting the stage white lines, removing rust on the black gate and (in September) outdoor painting. MB said there were still complaints about the difficulty of locking the front door. MK would investigate whether it was permissible to bolt one of the front doors closed permanently, making opening and closing the other door easier.	LP/PC MK
8. Any other business	MB would circulate proposed dates for committee meetings in 2026.	MB
9. Dates of future meetings	15-Sep-25, 19-Nov-25	All