

HADLOW DOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Monday, 21st June at Gill Hope Farm

PRESENT: Bob Lake (BL), Sarah Prall (SP), Fiona Shafer (FS), Janet Tourell (JT), Nigel Harrison (NH), Rachel Lewis (RL – Parish Council Representative)

APOLOGIES: John Thompson

MINUTES OF MEETING ON 27.05.21: SP proposed and NH seconded - BL signed them as a true record of the previous meeting

MATTERS ARISING:

Future Cheese & Wine Festival – FS has contacted Phil Green. It was felt that this event could be a popular event but not possible until next year. The High Weald Dairies should be contacted as well. (Other fund-raisers were discussed – see later.)

Building Sub-committee – NH reported that he hadn't been able to have a meeting yet.

Meeting with Mike Barber – BL reported (MJB see later)

Combining HDCC and Old Hall Committee ? – SP reported back that Sally Blyfield wasn't interested. However SP suggested that it would be useful for the two committees to come together and 'compare notes' more frequently.

Fund-raising Committee – BL said that he'd looked into this but will make further progress for the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email from Sandra Richards to JT had been forwarded to all committee members prior to the meeting. Everyone was broadly in agreement with the contents of the email and efforts will be made to address the problems:

Point 1. The Lottery. JT said that she'd had a phone conversation with SR and clarified when Lottery draws were to be made. It was agreed that we should advertise in the Parish Magazine and on the website when a draw was imminent.

Point 2. Progress of the Community Centre. JT had told SR that the HDCC Committee was still functioning since lockdown and would be reporting back at the HDCA AGMs in July. BL thought that SR's comments were valid and SP said that she thought indeed the web site wasn't specific enough with regard to the Community Centre. BL said that as the lockdown period had been extended from the end of June we should ask Graham Terry for a new date for the Combined AGMs.

Point 3: Accounts on the Charity Commission site: BL said that he'd been in contact with John Thompson about filing the accounts and they had been done. BL said that we need a system in place so that they are submitted annually on time.

ACTION: BL to phone Graham and contact Peter Smyth re. advertising the new date for the AGM in the Magazine and publicising the Lottery draw.

ACTION: SP to tighten up the web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In John Thompson's absence BL reported that nothing had changed since the previous meeting on 27th May.

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE: FS & SP reported that they had met, had many ideas and that the Newsletter is coming together. It will look like a tabloid newspaper: eight pages long. There will be information about the Committee, the Parish Council, Volunteering etc.

BL asked about the age focus. SP said that Ollie Fake had been approached – the Committee asked whether some content was aimed at children. [not sure about this!]

JT asked when the deadline was – answer Wednesday, 30th June; there will be a meeting the following Friday.

SP said that a run of 400/500/600 had been considered at a cost of £700. Possible sponsors were discussed – MJB? Coppards?

SP said that she was aiming for the Newsletter to be given away at the AGMs. It could also be given away at Keith Revoir's Buxted Fair at St Mary's in July? [JT's comment as the Fair is still on the 10th is this a good idea?] SP said that Kevin, the Postman, would distribute in the Village but we'd need to fill in gaps.

ACTION: BL to look at the previous distribution areas and work out which areas need filling out.

BL said that the importance of work by the HDCC needs to be emphasised and the fact that the work is being done by volunteers. There had been and still is a certain amount of criticism in the Village about the project but he felt that given the current work on the Newsletter to raise the profile of the project, the credibility of the HDCC will have been restored by Christmas!

He also felt that it was important that a member of the HDCC committee should be at the monthly Monday meetings of the Parish Council in future to report back or answer questions.

Re. the website: JT asked SP if she could find out how to post on the website because information should be up to date.

ACTION: SP to give a 'tutorial'

LOTTERY: JT reported that since the renewal letters had gone out £716 had been added to the funds and she thought there was more to come.

The Committee asked if there was a limit on tickets bought. JT said the limit was twelve per person although one or two people had more.

It was suggested that each Committee member should try selling tickets as birthday presents!

ACTION: JT to let SP have figures for Lottery to post online.

FUND-RAISING IDEAS:

FS said that she felt that a Cheese & Wine Festival was a bit ambitious for this year as a fund-raiser but it would be good for next.

However she suggested an Autumn Open Gardens event in the village instead. JT pointed out that the Parish of Buxted & Hadlow Down were also trying to raise funds this year and one of their options would be an Open Garden Day, which was a usual Parish fixture prior to the pandemic anyway.

JT said that if a village Open Gardens event was arranged in Hadlow Down would it be possible to involve the Horticultural Society as well because they weren't able to hold their Plant Sale this year?

FS suggested having a Car Boot Sale, possibly Sept/Oct – clashing with events on the Playing Field - e.g. cricket/football matches - was discussed.

SP asked if an event to remember Neil Kempson was being considered – a party at the Playing Field? BL confirmed that money was being raised for a bench in Neil's memory. SP said that we need to find out what is going on so that we can organise events accordingly.

JT said that she thought the Just Giving page on the website was excellent and a good way of slowly building funds especially if one used direct debits.

A Silent Auction and/or a Celebrity Auction online was suggested.

RL suggested that a village picnic could be arranged. People could hire tables?

SP favoured an 'Open Gardens' marquee with music [I didn't quite get this suggestion – did you?]

ACTION: BL to send out fund-raising information

MJB ARCHITECTURE UPDATE:

BL said that he had spoken with Mike Barber and that he thought an extension of the Wealden Planning Permission timeline might be possible; Chris Bending(?) is now the current head of planning. However Mike's advice is that it might be better to leave it as it is and aim to start the project before the planning period runs out: e.g. start the footings and aim for an Inspection.

BL reported from his conversation with MJB - the upsides were:

1. MJB are addressing the conditions of planning consent and doing working drawings.
2. The fees will be £5000 – no hurry to pay
3. The QS – Terry Sullivan – might be a deal? [not sure if I heard this properly]

SP asked what the cost would be – had it changed

BL said that the downsides are that costs have escalated due to the impact of the HS2 Rail project - an increase of 12.5%

The Committee discussed the Wereham Hall project that SP had looked into – it was agreed that our cost is the terrain(?) SP said that we can demonstrate environmental credibility. BL agreed. [I'm sure that you can put all this much better than I can Bob!]

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

SP wanted to know how much has been raised by the HDCC previously?

ACTION: JT & BL to consult previous financial statements and let SP know.

BL pointed out that this village has raised a considerable amount of money in the past from grants much of it due to RL

SP asked RL if she furnish the Committee with a list of small grants that we could go to locally and how to apply for them – Who/Why/What

ACTION: RL to send SP bullet points.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday, 26th July at Nigel Harrison's house at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm