



HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Of the Halton Borough in the County of
Cheshire



VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Minutes of Village Hall Committee Meeting
Held at the Village Hall on Thursday 25 July 2019, 16.00 hrs.

Present

Cllr. Gary Wright Chairman

Cllr Malcolm Spargo

Cllr Ann Kierman

Cllr Catherine Williams

Cllr Carol Anderson

There were 10 members of the Public and 2 Hale Parish Councillors

Issues Discussed as numbered on the agenda.

1. Elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr G Wright would continue as Chair person. Cllr M Spargo would continue as Vice Chairperson.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr. Luke Trevaskis

3. Declarations of interest

Non were received

4. Minutes from the last Meeting held on 15 May 2019

These were read and approved.

5. Public Forum

A spokesperson for 'The Friends of the Village Hall' stood up and read a prewritten statement outlining a number of issues that had been discussed at one of their prior personal meetings.

- Asked why the Hall Committee had not progressed the offer of a display screen provided through a Halton BC Grant.
- Complained about non communication on the VH website relating date and time of this meeting
- Outlined a number of issues relating to what they considered to be oversights on the VH Management – Fire Alarm testing and responses and procedures to call outs. Petrol being left in the Lawnmower on site. Paint being stored in the Building.
- Stated that Health and Safety was not negotiable.
- They felt insulted that statements were being made to the possibility of one of their members being requested to assist with outstanding painting requirements.

The council replied as follows to these points:

- It was apparent, that a considerable amount of outside involvement was being mustered with some unclear purpose. This could be understood as an attempt to interfere, stated as 'meddling' with the general management of the facility.
- The Display screen had not been communicated effectively to the VH Committee; we had no knowledge of the size, placement, running costs or conditions attached to its usage. If a short description had been raised by the proposer – the VH Manager, it would have received the appropriate consideration and acted upon accordingly.
- The Village Hall manager has the responsibility to maintain good records of all statutory requirements and ensure that we totally comply with the law, advising accordingly. The VH committee agreed that it would be necessary to have a review of the various parties that currently undertake general Safety, Gas and Electric services that the Hall requires.
- The VH Committee agreed that the assistance of a 'Friends association' would be helpful. We should endeavour to work together, their services would be welcomed. However, they should not try to interfere with the day to day running of the Hall, on many occasions in the absence of not having a satisfactory understanding or adequate knowledge of the issues they are wishing to become involved.
- The committee agreed that an improved communication stream is required between the Manager and the councillors. Many telephone calls had been made to the manager and no response had been received, this was unacceptable, requiring urgent attention.
- The VH Capital and Revenue expenditure for the current year could not be progressed due to the current liabilities for Gas and Electricity not yet resolved by the VH Manager. Clear instructions were given to finalise this important matter by this committee, this was on the notes of the last VH meeting 15 May 2019, (Item 7).

6. *Manager's report* – The Village Hall Manager was not available for this meeting. Details were read out by the chairman

7. *Financial Report* – Please see last bullet point on item 5 above outlining an inadequate financial position.

8. *Consider placement of a Storage Container at the rear of the Village Hall.*

The various types and possible costs were discussed.

Again, it was agreed to continue with a thorough investigation. The final type of storage unit either a prefabricated or a purpose made unit to be discussed at a later meeting.

9. *Purchase of a storage unit at a cost of up to £1000*

This was deferred to a later date.

10 *'Friends of the Village Hall'*

The VH Committee again stated that it was a good idea to have the assistance of volunteers to help with any issues that would save unnecessary expenditure. We should be working together under a common interest agenda, having a clear understanding how each party to help the overall wellbeing of the Village asset, without unnecessary confrontation, which is currently totally unproductive.

The chairperson of the group undertook to provide details of their constitution together with their membership, allowing the VH committee to help gain a better appreciation of their intentions and possible commitments.

11. Discuss essential spends to Acoustics, Furniture etc.

This was deferred until a better understanding of our financial position has been resolved with the potential liabilities.

12. Review the current arrangements for cleaning services

Scott, the current Caretaker, undertaking these tasks was thanked for his good work. The VH Committee and members of the Public gave him a rapturous applause.

13 Next Meeting.

This will be held in September in the Village Hall. Date and time to be advised

The meeting closed at 17.45.