

REMENHAM PARISH HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 26 September 2022 at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall

Present: Jeremy Tayler (Chairman)
Nigel Gray (Treasurer)
Felicity Rutland (Secretary)
Janette Brown
Jacky Ronald
Charlotte Jefferies
Sue Laing
Allan Henderson
Charlotte Every
Pat Sly
Claire Fletcher-Hobbs.

In attendance: Polly Hogan

1. **Apologies:** Jan Watson, Tina Jacobs
Not heard from: Peter Grace (presumed to have resigned), Melissa Davies (Sue Laing will contact).
2. **Minutes of the last meeting (14 July 2022):** Approved
3. **Matters Arising:** None that weren't covered elsewhere on the agenda
4. **Membership of Hall Committee:**
The Chairman welcomed Charlotte J and Claire to the meeting; they are keen to join the committee, along with Jan Watson and Tina Jacobs. Charlotte J offered to take on the role of Secretary from Felicity.
5. **Remenham Fayre:**
Sue Laing's paper of notes for next year had been circulated and would be updated after the meeting. The updated report is attached. Key points are:
 - Profit was in the region of £2,100, possibly to be supplemented by the sale of Nigel's watering system on eBay.
 - The Fayre to start at 2.00pm next year, with no-one allowed entry earlier (a problem this year), and no entrance fee.
 - Loan of sound system for the weekend has been offered by Shiplake College.
 - No decision was taken about charging for the dog show; if there is a charge help will be needed with admin.

There was some lively debate about whether the objective was to raise funds; it was suggested that there should be a Mission Statement; it was pointed out the fund raising was vital for the Church, which owns the Hall, and that there was a Constitution. Janette felt that there should be events for the community rather than for fund raising, but it was explained that fund raising was the prime purpose, but this could be combined with community events for all, such as the Fayre, where people did not need to commit to

spending a great deal. Jeremy emphasised that there is a considerable need for funds for the church, which could very well be under threat of closure otherwise, which would necessitate the sale of the Hall by the Diocese.

6. Hall maintenance:

Painting of the outside is being done now; a lot of repairs have been needed to windows; painting of the gate will follow.

There is still the need for someone to do 'odd jobs'. Polly offered to ask Tony and Pat who have just retired from The Flower Pot and who have relations locally who may be willing to help. Pat will give Polly a list of the jobs. Sue suggested that failing that the Barn offices should be asked if they had a maintenance person who could help. **ACTION:** Pat and Polly

7. Hall lettings:

There have been a great many; only one wedding this year and one booked for next year. Pat expressed concern about asking for the £1,000 deposit agreed at the last meeting; it was confirmed, but for weddings linked to the community there should be a discussion about a concession.

The recent wedding which caused concern to some of the immediate neighbours, and generated copious email correspondence, was discussed, with widely varying views.

It was suggested that consideration should be given to extending the end time for live music, and this will be discussed further at a subsequent meeting; there has been a request for an extension to midnight for a family with close Remenham connections.

Policing/security was discussed and will be discussed further.

Following Item 7 (Finance) there was further discussion about lettings and whether they could be increased. If so then Pat will need help as she does everything. Charlotte J suggested that children's parties could be advertised more widely as it is such a beautiful space and underpriced. It was agreed that Pat, Charlotte J and Felicity (in relation to publicity) would meet to discuss this. **ACTION:** Charlotte J, Pat, Felicity

It was agreed that details of Lettings would be posted on the Hall door. **ACTION:** Pat

8. Finance:

Nigel reported:

- Hall account end August - £64,000
- Income year to date - £22,000, of which 30% is donations from Film companies. Breakdown includes
 - Dog Training £3,000
 - Arts and crafts £1,500
 - Regatta lettings and parking £2,500
 - Wedding £1,600
 - Parties and family gatherings £4,800
- Expenses have been around £5,000, including insurance of £1,000 and Electricity for 7 months of £1,100, with the price (Octopus) fixed until March.
- It was agreed that for lettings more should be charged for electricity in the winter

9. Action points from the past:

Research into Awnings (quotations obtained before Covid no longer relevant) would be re-activated (Felicity and Pat); a flyer about weddings was not considered important at present; Charlotte E volunteered to ring Bentley Productions about the possibility of a plaque about Midsommer Murders having been filmed at the Hall. The Notice Board outside the Hall was discussed; it is a great shame this is so out-of-date and untidy. The Committee agreed that the Parish Council should be asked if this could become the responsibility of the Committee, and Polly agreed to ask.
ACTION: Felicity, Pat, Charlotte E, Polly.

10. Future events:

Charlotte E reminded the meeting about the Harvest Supper the following Friday. The Carol Service would take place in the morning of 18 December (still with candles and mulled wine afterwards); this is to avoid a clash with the football Cup Final in the afternoon.
It was agreed that the proposed Letters Evenings should now be planned for February rather than this Autumn; Allan and Felicity to get together to discuss and propose dates.
ACTION: Allan and Felicity
It was agreed that the Parish would celebrate the Coronation, the date of which has been tentatively suggested would be in June: Pat was asked not to take any Hall bookings for the first weekend in June.

11. Any other Business

Hall Curtains: It was requested that these should be left open; Pat said this was the agreement for those using the Hall but was not always complied with so she opens them.
Personal Details: There was some inconclusive discussion about the availability of personal emails on the website, which can generate scams. Jeremy has suffered from this with emails purporting to come from him requesting money; he emphasised that he would never ask people for money in this way.
Cyber Awareness: Sue suggested that, in line with many organisations, we could have a Cyber Awareness meeting for the Parish; it was agreed this was an excellent idea and Sue will action. **ACTION:** Sue.

12. Date of Next meeting: This was set for **Wednesday 30 November** at **7.00pm** (time requested to accommodate bedtime for those with small children), and it would be at Sue Laing's house, **Home Farm in Remenham Lane.**

FMR / approved by Chairman on 4.11.2022