

**MEETING OF THE PARISH HALL COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 9 JANUARY 2020**

**Present:** Father Jeremy Tayler (Chair)  
Janette Brown  
Charlotte Every  
Nigel Gray (Treasurer)  
Allan Henderson  
Sue Laing  
Jacky Ronald  
Felicity Rutland (Secretary)  
Pat Sly

**1. Apologies (and Committee changes)**

Apologies from Lene de Wesselow. Warm thanks were expressed to Jayne Gray on her retirement from the Committee. New member and Secretary Felicity Rutland was welcomed and thanked for volunteering.

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

These were confirmed as accurate; proposed by Nigel Gray, seconded by Allan Henderson, agreed by all.

**3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

**4. Hall maintenance etc**

There was nothing to report on maintenance ('for a change!'). Barry Rosier goes in as and when required, Steve Allender cleans every week, Pat sends both of them a schedule of lettings on a monthly basis so they know when to avoid.

**5. Finances**

Nigel tabled the draft accounts for 2019. Income was £26,385 and expenditure was £6,355, taking the total balance carried forward to £61,975. The main items of income were explained, which show the very considerable importance of the regular lettings (dog training being the greatest contributor) and weddings, as well as the events that we organise ourselves. Nigel emphasised the importance of the lettings, and pointed out the enormous amount of work these entailed, principally by Pat, and thanked all involved. There are three weddings booked for 2020 (one in 2019).

Nigel confirmed that the Parish Council made a donation of £750 and that both the Rewind and the Henley Festival had made contributions direct to the church.

Pat asked about the possibility of online banking as in particular it wasn't always easy to know whether deposits for lettings had been made. It was agreed that this was not possible, but Nigel was always willing to check bank statements at the bank, and that those paying deposits should be asked to send a screen shot to prove payment had been made. The repairs to the rest of the garden wall was discussed, which could cost £20/25,000, and it was agreed that this should now be done, using the same contractor and before the Regatta if possible. **ACTION Nigel.**

## 6. Future events

- (i) Sponsored walk. This was agreed for 4 April, with three routes of 2 miles, 5 miles and 10 miles, followed by lunch in the Hall. It would be promoted in the next Newsletter (deadline 27 February); a JustGiving page would be set up; further discussion to take place about an entry fee and/or minimum sponsorship, maps, signs, marshalls. Allan outlined his experience of Chiltern Walks, for which an entry fee is required. **ACTION Sue, Charlotte and Jacky**
- (ii) Letters Evening(s): It was agreed that this should go ahead in November, for two evenings and in the Hall not the church. A similar format to the previous event to be used, ie canapes, small tables, similar timing. Ann Burley to be consulted about possible dates as it would be good to have her input and technical involvement (lighting and sound). The event last year had been less profitable than the Quiz Evening, which was initially puzzling, but it seemed that the difference was principally the raffle at the Quiz evening; it was agreed to have raffles at the Letters Evenings. (Discussion suggested there should be no difficulty in acquiring enough raffle prizes.) The committee was asked who would be willing to read letters, and Felicity volunteered most or all of the Thespians, but was keen this should not be seen as a Thespians' event. **ACTION Allan and Felicity**
- (iii) Fayre. The date was confirmed as 6 September. The proposed Giant Marrow and Tallest Sunflower competitions were also confirmed, seeds for the sunflowers to be available at the sponsored walk on 4 April, or available thereafter, probably in church. Helen may be able to get the seeds from Toad Hall. **ACTION All**
- (iv) *A Would I lie to you* event. Postponed to 2021. **ACTION (in due course) Lene**
- (v) A 'big event': various ideas were discussed including the jazz duo who had been in touch with Pat again. The consensus was to pursue Jacky's suggestion of a Ceilidh, for 2021.
- (vi) Concert in the church: It was agreed that the Queen Anne's concert had been a great success, although the audience had been largely QA families. They are willing to repeat this. Felicity also mentioned the Henley Youthful Orchestra in which she (and Madeline Cahill) plays - free but probably only suitable for half a concert, with the other half of a higher quality soloist perhaps! There was interest for the future but not in 2020 which is already 'full'.
- (vii) Thespians: the next production is planned for March 2021.

## 7. Any Other Business

- (i) Silver cup: A hallmarked silver cup had come to light, presented to the person with the 'best gardener' in Remenham for the seven years 1925-32! (There had only been three winners in that period, the last being the gardener of Major Victor Rhodes, Diana's father.). It was agreed to resurrect this, to be awarded to the overall winner of the produce show at the Fayre, possibly in conjunction with the Allotments. It was also agreed to promote the produce

show much more vigorously (as in the past and as at other local shows such as Binfield Heath/Henley etc.), and in particular to endeavour to attract entries from the Allotment holders. Helen to be consulted. **ACTION Nigel**

- (ii) Waitrose: Charlotte is waiting to hear the outcome of the 'green disc' collection in December.
- (iii) Awning: Felicity reported the Thespians' suggestion of a retractable awning over the back of the Hall, preferably with sides, and their willingness to contribute £1,000 towards this; the main advantage would be for Thespians' productions to protect members of the cast from the elements when entering the stage from the back, but would be attractive to others renting the Hall, and for events such as the Fayre. This was met with considerable enthusiasm. It was suggested that the attachment of the sides should be restricted to our own use rather than lettings. Sue mentioned her own recent experience of installing a retractable awning which also had retractable sides. Further information to be supplied by Sue and quotations requested from Hillary's Blinds and possibly one or two others. **ACTION Felicity, Pat and Barry**
- (iv) Midsomer Murders Plaque: Felicity raised the possibility of a plaque commemorating the use of the Hall for filming 'Midsomer Murders'. (There have been several of these, and also the filming of a Miss Marple episode – Pat has all the details.) The Golden Ball (where Nigel was dining the following evening) has such a plaque on display commemorating their involvement in a specific episode. If they cannot point us in the right direction then the production company Bentley Productions to be contacted. **ACTION Nigel**

8. **Date of next meeting:** Thursday 26 March at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall