

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, Thursday 11th January 2024

Prepared by: Roz Blacklock

Committee Members Present: Mary Stastny/George Stastny/Gillian Connolly/Roz Blacklock/Fred&Jane Robineau/David &Christine Catterson/Howard Haughton/Liz Treadway/Joanne Davey

Volunteers: Ann Woodward/Ann Young

Apologies: Linda Alderson/Peter & Michelle Bigge

Declaration of Interest: George S

Minutes of last meeting were agreed – to be signed post meeting MS

MATTERS ARISING

FR reported that to have understairs drawers for table storage was too expensive. Other alternatives to be investigated. GC stated that grants may be available through the Village Hall Consortium. FR

FINANCES

GC submitted her final financial report. Stated that 10k was ringfenced for emergency purposes and that the major outgoings of the hall were: the Lease of £525pa. The insurance premium of £565pa as well as the electricity bill which she stressed were due to inflation. GC also stated that we needed to maximise our fundraising suggesting that 8k was needed to cover our costs.

MS thanked GC for the work she had done for the past three years as she officially handed over the David Catterson who was welcomed as the new Treasurer. DC acknowledged the information concerning ongoing costs and thanked her for her handover briefing.

PUBLICITY

MS had set up Village What's App group which is proving popular and now has 20 members to date. JD is taking on the updating of Facebook, the Village Website & local press to promote events. FR suggested targeted promotion of various events on Facebook, which would have a financial cost. It was agreed that this should be done for certain events i.e. Open Gardens.

CC suggested that any ticket sales should be directed via Ticket Source or Event Brite so numbers could be easily counted for catering etc. Alternatives were discussed for non technical individuals. Other ways of advertising for prospective hirers/events was via The Teesdale Mercury/The Northern Echo. JR also suggested promoting events by leaving leaflets at each event. JD/CC/LT

PAST EVENTS

Lighting of the Christmas Tree – A really successful evening with a unanimous suggestion of less mince pies and more sausage rolls! Noted.

LT to book brass band for 2024. Suggested dates 1st or 8th December

LT

There was some discussion about the brightness of the tree lights and it was discussed that the bigger battery packs would be really expensive and plug in lights could be a trip hazard. Still under discussion.

GS said the base of the tree need to be more secure and it was decided to cement the metal tree holder into the ground.

DC/GS/HH

FUTURE EVENTS

Coffee Morning – Greetings card lady still not confirmed. MS to ascertain a phone number for confirmation and discuss financial arrangements.

MS

PUB NIGHT

Poor take up of tickets, decided to make final decision on Monday 15th Jan if 20 tickets not sold. GS to canvas Parish Council for support.

GS

RUSSIAN TALK

Afternoon tea to be served. JR to coordinate food via email. GC to provide photographs and text for advertising. Sunday morning set up.

DIXON COUNTRY BAND

To be discussed at the next meeting. It was decided that food was not necessary and to have a bar with crisps and nuts. JD to amend advertising. CC to look into the use of Event Brite/Ticket Source

JD/CC

CASTLE PLAYERS

Mary reported it was full steam ahead with the production and revealed the new backdrop of a very impressive rural scene.

COPPER BEECH

Peter Bigge has sourced edging for the new Copper Beech_which will retain the gravel around the base of the tree at a cost of £45.

CRAFTS

LT had asked around and had concluded it would not be financially viable to hold craft sessions. FR offered use of the hall for 3 free sessions and LT is to consider. JR pointed out that there are lots of village halls in the dale all offering the same classes and in order to attract groups into Whorlton we would need to think of something unique.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MS paid tribute to Bing McKewan, past Secretary of the WVCH, who had died recently. Also to Captain Pease whose memorial service will be held in Whorlton.

Ann Woodward requested that the WI banner be displayed in the hall and this was agreed.

PROJECTOR

FR suggested that the purchase of a projector at a cost of £500 would be good for the Hall. MS said Volker Laser had offered to help the village funding. FR to follow this up and MS to enable

MS/FR

GO FIBRE – Provision of Broadband services

DC to investigate further

DC

Date of next meeting Thursday 29th February 2024