

MINUTES OF ARKENDALE COMMUNITY HALL COMMITTEE MEETING Thursday 2nd March 2017

AT 7.30 PM IN ARKENDALE COMMUNITY HALL

Present: Alan Stokes (Chairman) AS, Gavin Holman (Deputy Chairman) GH, Jean Cox (Treasurer) JC, Peter Thorndyke (Secretary) PT, Caroline Houseman (Booking Secretary) CH, Jean Stokes JS, Trevor Rowe TR, Sue Rowe SR, Malcolm Howe MH, Judith Howe JH, David Cox DC.

1. Apologies for absence

None.

2. Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 8th December 2016 And Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as correct, subject to 2 minor amendments. Proposed by TR, seconded by JC and signed by the Chairman. The two amendments were the correction of GH to CH in para 2 and in para 3 50/50 replaced 5/50.

AS mentioned that the mirror referred to in para 2 of the last minutes was now in use, the painting of the toilets by Robyn Cox was almost complete. CH reported that she had been unable to source a joiner that had the time to create circular tables. All attendees reported that the Mr and Mrs Evening had been a great success.

3. Correspondence

Peter Topham had, since the last meeting, tendered his resignation from the committee, by e mail.

4. Financial Matters

JC reported that the accounts showed that the hall now had funds amounting in total to over £37,000 following the transfer of £3,000 from the current to deposit account. £25000 of this was a reserve fund. The current account was now building back up and now had a balance of £5,133.

JC said that she had put in an appeal over the increase in rateable value for the hall from £1800 to £2550. If the appeal fails there will be a commensurate increase in the business rates payable, though the hall is eligible for an automatic 80% rebate and JC is applying for a further 10% rebate which is available to certain organisations. MHO felt strongly that the increase should be challenged, perhaps after referring to Rural Action Yorkshire, even if the net increase was small.

5. Maintenance

New batteries fitted in the alarm system. CH noted that the noise levels in the hall were excessive when events were being held and suggested the use of fabrics on the walls to reduce the echoing. JH said she knew an acoustic specialist who she would contact to come and make recommendations at a small cost. DC commented that he had problems with the Young Farmers Group who had not cleaned up after their last hire despite promising to do so. This has been a problem since the hall opened because cleaning is done by the committee members on a voluntary basis. There was no obvious solution other than to continue emphasising to users the need to leave the hall as they find it. AS reminded the meeting that the floor and the rear of the building would both need remedial work in the near future, that could be expensive.

6. Booking Secretary's Report

CH reported that bookings were going well Roughly 4 to 6 bookings per week, sometimes rising to 10, but not many children's parties currently. Sadly some potential 2 day, all day, bookings are being turned down because of the regular bookings such as Pilates and Zumba.

7. Future Events

CH reported that the music duo Blackheart were booked for the 7th October this year and we needed to get as large an audience as possible.

DC initiated a discussion on which films were to be show in the hall during April and May. 'Deepwater Horizon' was not considered suitable but 'Allied', 'The Light Between Oceans' and 'Dr Strange' were all seen as acceptable.

8. AOB

None

9. Chairman and Vice Chairman

Alan and Jean Stokes resigned from the committee and as Trustees of the hall as they were moving away from the village. It was the meetings view that GH should take over as chairman until the next AGM when there would be a proper election. It was agreed that the committee would operate without a Vice Chairman until then.

It was noted that the Wine Society would need a new organiser but it was decided that the next meeting could be one in which members brought their own wines to discuss.

GH said that the committee needed new members and he proposed e mailing as many residents as possible and putting an appeal on the village notice board.

GH then thanked Alan and Jean for all they had done for the hall during their tenure and wished them well for the future. This was endorsed by all present.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was set as Thursday May 25th 2017 at 7.30 pm in the village hall. There being no further business the Acting Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Agreed (Chairman) Date