

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of the Meeting - Monday 25th November 2024

1. Present at meeting & apologies for absence:

Apologies: Liz Brunwin Pip Pryor Sarah Milhench Tina Campan

Present: Jenny Pine, David Johnston, Gale Singfield (new Committee Member) Carol Squire, Sue Sharrock

The committee welcomed Gale to the group.

Nathalie Brown has resigned as Chair and it was agreed that the chairing of meetings would be done on a rota basis until the May AGM where committee members elected, and their roles and responsibilities are agreed.

David Johnston volunteered to act as Chair for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Amendments or matters arising not on the agenda.
No amendments raised. Minutes agreed.

Action: Carol to send minutes to the Parish Council Clerk for uploading onto the website.

3. Feedback from PC Meeting

- **Solar Panels & Electric Car charging unit grant application update.**

Carol reported that the Parish Council PC have applied for a second grant to meet the gap in funding of circa £3000.

Both grants will need to be spend prior to the end of the financial year. The next stage is to arrange a suitability survey which should be free, and it could be that once the survey is done – the panels could be installed by spring assuming the companies who have quoted have the capacity. The Parish Council will continue to lead on and manage the project.

Action: Carol to contact the PC Clerk to find out when the survey will take place.

- **Neighbourhood Plan Survey Results.** Carol provided the group with a summary of the results that relate to the village hall. There will be an open session to provide feedback to the village residents in the new year. In terms of the village hall, overall, the results indicate the hall is valued but under used. There were requests for a range of amenities and events for example, more evening exercise sessions, youth club and activities, play groups and for arts and craft sessions. There were also suggestions related to changes to the building and equipment e.g. better chairs for film nights, automatic front doors, more accessible disabled toilet facilities. These comments were discussed, and it was agreed that any proposed structural changes would involve a detailed survey and working with the Parish Council to identify funding sources.

Action: Carol to find out when the survey presentation is scheduled and then request committee members who are available to attend and feedback to the group at the following meeting. Additional action required to meet residents' requests can then be agreed.

4. Financial update

- Current VH account position: **Jenny** tabled the latest cashflow forecast for the village hall.

The hall is in a good financial position currently because of the profits received for the Pantomime and the summer dance. The upcoming pantomime in March will also bring in profit of around £700 based on previous years income. Regular income from monthly hirers has reduced slightly with the cessation of the Dance Club and there is a question as to whether the Wednesday Yoga session will continue in 2025 as numbers are not consistently good.

Action: Carol & Jenny to speak to Emma about how we can support her to continue the yoga sessions.

- Proposed spending for 2024 / 5

Tablecloths: at previous meetings the purchase or acquisition of white tablecloths had been discussed and Sarah M had agreed to see if she could get some donated, but this had not been possible.

The committee discussed whether to buy some but noted that if an event is catered, often the caterers will organise tablecloths for the event themselves. It was agreed that new white cloths would look better but they also would need laundering after each event. The possibility of getting disposable ones was discussed and agreed that a stock of these might prove useful.

Action: Carol to source linen look disposable tablecloths.

5. Hall bookings update – Carol

Regular External / Private Bookings: Carol reported that there have not been any private hires since the last meeting. There had been one enquiry, but this did not result in a booking.

Regular sessions: Louise Fuller the Pilates tutor has been asked if she will do an evening session if there is demand and she has agreed to look at her schedule and come back to us.

- **Fit Villages: Carol** reported that despite repeatedly emailing the lead, there is no news from Henry re securing someone to do an evening exercise class. She will continue to pursue this.
- **Table Tennis: Jenny** reported that she had discussed the need for a coach and additional table tennis table tops to facilitate the activity at the Halifax Trust meeting and they agreed to support getting sessions started by funding additional equipment. Jenny has also been given the name of the school activities organiser who might be able to help find someone to provide coaching.

Action: to contact the school activities lead to ask if she will help us find a suitable coach.

6. Future VH Events:

- Income generating events for 2024 /2025
 - **Postponed Quiz** – Jenny has spoken with Gerry and Theresa who have informed her that Vernon is not in good health and so cannot commit to running a quiz soon. Sue informed the committee she still has the prepared quiz and if Gerry and Theresa are prepared to do the marking as usual a quiz could be held in the spring – after the pantomime.

Action – to discuss at the January meeting.

- **Christmas** – Jenny has booked to watch The Wolsey Theatres production of Sleeping Beauty Pantomime as a live screening on 28th Dec 2024 at 2pm in the village hall. Tickets are on sale for anyone over 12yrs (under 12yrs go free).

Action: Everyone to spread the word and we will need at least 4 committee members present on the day. Please let Carol or Jenny know if you are free to assist.

- **Shimpheton Players Panto** – to be staged at Alpheton VH - 1st weekend of March 2025. The tickets will be sold via the Alpheton Village Hall Website in due course.
- **Shimpling Celebrates** – the committee discussed the merits of holding the event on the 1st or last bank holiday in May. It was decided to use the 5th May as the 26th is during half term and some families are on holiday so attendance is potentially lower.

Action: Tina to book the climbing wall archery and axe throwing for the day.

Carol to inform the Parish Council and ask for support for the event.

Carol to inform Nathalie Brown in case the pub is interested in participating.

Carol to book a bouncy castle & giant games in the new year.

To discuss again at the January meeting

- **Ceilidh / Barn Dance:** It was proposed that this summer we hold a Ceilidh / Barn Dance. Jenny informed the group that Claire Weeks had said she knew of a good band and caller. Carol felt that the committee should secure both the venue and band early in the new year.

Action: To discuss again at the January meeting.

Other sessions

Arts & Crafts workshops – Carol reported that she has been looking into finding arts & craft type of activity sessions and currently is in contact with four tutors who are interested in working with the VHC to run sessions in 2025.

- Pottery – hand building lead by Cally James who has a studio in Lawsall
- Glass Mosaic – led by Laura Forrest from Tile Time Mosaic (currently running classes at Glemsford)
- Calligraphy – led by Kirstie Bird from Ink & Flow. She is available to run sessions from the autumn 2025
- Silver jewellery - led by Don Sankey who did the last silver ring workshop. He has set aside Saturday 8th Feb for the first session – assuming there is sufficient interest.

Action: The committee were supportive of Carol continuing to work with the tutors and hopefully arrange these sessions in 2025

7. Maintenance & improvement of the hall

- **Disposal of unwanted / broken items:** After the clear-out in the summer some items were identified as no longer being needed. The Parish Council have agreed that these can be disposed of but items that have value would be expected to be sold, or the recipient donate to the village hall. Carol has looked up what a second-hand projector might go for on eBay and it is between £100 - £130 depending on condition and age.
The items still in a pile outside the back of the hall need taking to the recycling centre asap.
Action: It was agreed that if any committee member is going and has space to take something – they will do so.
- External redecoration and replacement of store external door. Carol reported that the Parish Council as part of their budget setting for the next financial year have identified £2500 for external repair & redecoration & replacement of storeroom door. Carol had done some early research into costs of a door and door furniture, but

it will need to be properly measured and costed. Jenny suggested she could see if Ted and Lawrence could install the door and to feedback at the next meeting.
Redecoration of the hall exterior will need to be done by a professional as some of the plasterwork has blown.
Quotes from local builders will need to be sought in the new year and the information presented at the January meeting.

8. Health & Safety

- **H&S lead:** Bernard Essery the H&S rep for the committee resigned and the role needs to be covered. David Johnston agreed to be the H&S rep until the AGM.

Action: Carol to send David the relevant policies & procedures and show him the routine checks that need to be completed and logged each month.

- Annual Fire evacuation drill: it was discussed when this should take place to make it realistic and meaningful. David suggested the 28th of Dec as residents would be in the hall and it's during the day.

9. Any other business

- **AGM – due May 2025**

Action: Carol to ask Natasha the Parish Council Clerk when the Parish Council AGM will take place in May 2025 and then propose a date for the Village Hall AGM.

Dates of regular meetings: 4th Monday of every other month at 7-9pm 2024 / 5

27th January 2025

24th March 2025

26th May 2025