

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of the meeting – Monday 27th January 2025

- 1. Present at meeting:** Jenny Pine, Gale Singfield (chairing), David Johnston, Liz Brunwin, Sue Sharrock, Carol Squire

Apologies for absence: Tina Campan & Sarah Milhench

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Agreed.

Action: Carol to send to the Parish Clerk to upload onto the website

Matters arising: David highlighted that the fire drill didn't happen. It was explained that this was due to resistance from the event organisers who felt it would negatively impact on the event.

Action: To pick up under H&S.

3. Feedback from PC Meeting

- **Solar Panels & Electric Car charging unit** – grant application progress

Carol informed the committee that the application for the grant is in, and the decision will be made in March.

The survey to check the roof is suitable for the panels took place on Tuesday 21st Jan and verbally he said that it was fine. A report will go to the Parish Council who will use it to support the grant application. Planning agreement is being chased by the PC Clerk.

The car charging post – there is a signed agreement to do the work, and it will be where the refuse bins are currently situated. It must be within a meter of the hall as the PC / VH does not own the land beyond that. The Richards who own the land have agreed it can be dug up to lay the power cables.

The lease for the land surrounding the hall is still not finalised – the solicitors are still working on it. The delay is due to issues with the solicitors.

Grants are available for sports equipment, and it might be worth applying for it.

Action: Carol to find out more from the Parish Council

4. Financial update

- Current VH account position – Jenny reported that there is predicted to be around £3000 in the bank by the end of the financial year.

This will be less than last year as we won't have any profits from a pantomime this year and the summer dance was not as well attended as the first year. The Christmas events went well, the costs were £97 after donations and ticket sales. The children loved the live steaming of the pantomime, and it was agreed to stream other theatre productions in the future.

Action: Jenny proposed she approach Mark Haselhurst again to certify the end of year accounts.

5. Hall bookings update – Carol

- **Regular External / Private Bookings**

Carol reported that there was no private bookings Dec / Jan.

Feb has a session booked by Jane Ward & Lottie Blythe (Greening Shimpling) making bird boxes. Carol is awaiting a flyer for the event.

Pilates - Carol asked Louise if she will do an evening Pilates session which she agreed to and started on Wednesday evenings 6.30 – 7.30pm. Carol proposed to waive the hire fee for January – agreed.

Yoga sessions have moved to Tuesdays but there are still low numbers.

Zumba Gold continues Fridays but again – could do with more people attending.

Action: Everyone to encourage people to attend the sessions.

Film Nights - Carol reported that the January Maggie Smith film Keeping Mum was well received. The next scheduled film is the Sandra Bullock film The Lost City on the 18th Feb. The March film is The Colour Room – Clarice Cliffe's struggles to get her work recognised and accepted within the pottery industry. Carol reported she is away 10th to 23rd March and so volunteers are needed to lead the session. DVD is in the box in the metal cupboard as is the SUMUP.

Action: Gale Jenny Sue and Pip are planning to be there. Carol will give Jenny the cash box.

Action: Need to select films for Apr / May / June or perhaps some more live streamed theatre productions – everyone to send Carol their ideas

- **Fit Villages** – Carol reported she has heard nothing from Henry and will chase him again.
- **Table Tennis** – Carol contacted the Lawshall school activities lead Lorraine Plummer, but she didn't know of anyone who did table tennis coaching. Carol has looked online at the national organisation -Table Tennis England - for coaches and there are 5 in the local area.

Action: Carol to contact and see if any are interested in doing coaching sessions (and how much). Also, if possible, it would be good to hold open sessions in the Easter Holidays – Tuesdays or Wednesdays. If done, the sessions will need volunteers to supervise.

Future VH Events: Income generating events for 2025

- **Quiz** – Jenny reported that she has had dates from both Vernon and Teresa / Gerry and the 12th April was proposed but Alpheton have a quiz on the Saturday before, so it was proposed that our quiz is postponed until the Autumn.
Action: Jenny to inform Vernon, Teresa and Gerry
- **Shimpheton Players Panto** - is not going ahead this year as key parts have not been filled. It's disappointing as it's a good source of income for both village halls.
- **Shimpling Celebrates** – Scheduled for the 1st bank holiday in May.
Carol reported that the Climbing Wall (which is a big attraction) is not available this year – it is already booked out to another event. After discussion it was proposed that we don't hold it this year.
- **Ceilidh / Barn Dance** - summer 2025. This is a joint event with Alpheton Village Hall. The date was discussed, and it was felt the best time would be August – before term starts as quite a few of the target audience go on holiday in September.
Action: Jenny agreed to contact Alice Pawsey to see if there is a date in August, she will agree to but it may be that any weddings or other events that bring in money would take precedence. If not, then the alternative is to use Alpheton Village Hall (slightly bigger than Shimpling Village Hall)
Availability of a band was also discussed, and Carol has looked online for local bands should the one suggested by Mark be unavailable - <https://www.catchthepigeon.uk/>
Action: Carol to make enquiries re bands availability in August.
Catering for the event was discussed and although a hog roast is popular, it is an expensive option. Other suggestions included local catering again or a food truck that either provides for the event or one people can directly purchase their own supper (and a lower entry fee)
It was suggested Sarah's expertise might be useful to drawn on at the next meeting.
Action: to discuss in more detail at the next meeting when hopefully we have the venue and band dates

Children's activities: Carol has been handed a leaflet for a company who organise play sessions for 6 yrs and under – Little City which looks interesting.

Action: Carol to investigate what price it would be to provide a session in the village hall

- **Arts & Crafts workshops**

Silver Jewellery – Carol had booked dates for Silver Jewellery 15th of Feb but due to a business issue it's been postponed until the autumn. Carol feedback that she has looked at other providers, but their classes were double the price. She has found another silversmith who does classes in Silver Clay jewellery – a technique that makes it easier to create and imprint a design of your choice onto e.g. a pendant.

Action: Carol to enquire about booking a silver clay workshop

The Pottery workshop is booked for the 8th of March 10 – 12 noon. Cally has provided a poster which will be circulated and displayed on the notice boards.

The Glass Tile Mosaic workshop is booked for the evening of the 17th of April 6.30 – 9.30pm. Places to be booked directly.

Neighbourhood Plan feedback session is booked 1st Feb 10.30 – 13.30 in the village hall. It was agreed to have a presence to get feedback about the village hall and what we provide

Action: Pip (10.30) Sue (11.30) Jenny (12.30) and Carol (1.30) agreed to be there to publicise the village hall activities and take suggestions.

7. Maintenance & improvement of the hall

- **Disposal of unwanted / broken items:** Carol proposed we hire a skip and get rid as its nearly 6 months since we did the clear out.

Action: Pip to find out costs and organise.

- **External redecoration and repair of store external door – summer 2025**

Jenny reported that the back door has been looked at by Lawrence Rooke and he felt that all that was needed was a new sill. Carol highlighted that as a fire exit door it would be good to change the door opening mechanism to a break bar like the hall side doors. There was support for this.

The exterior of the hall looks as if it needs the blown rendering repaired / replaced before it is painted.

Carol reported that the Parish Council require the VHC to write to them identifying what needs to be done and enclose quotes for the work – ideally 3 but 2 if not possible. If there are sufficient things that need addressing – the PC might be able to apply for a grant.

Action: To draw up the list at the next meeting

8. Health & Safety

- Annual Fire evacuation drill – this was discussed and reiterated that it does need to take place soon. It was highlighted that it would be better to do it in the daytime.

Action: Carol to find out when the Spring Market is to be held and do the fire drill at the start. David also suggested that it would be useful to have a slide to project on the screen at events detailing what to do in the event of a fire and it was agreed. The evacuation point was also discussed (Bernard's front lawn) and it was felt that this might need to be changed.

Action: David to create the slide. David to research how far away an evacuation point should be from the hall and propose an alternative

9. Any other business

- **AGM – due May 2025.** It was agreed to hold the AGM and subsequent committee meeting on the 28th April 6.30pm

Action: Carol to publicise this date in the next village newsletter.

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

24th March 2025

28th April 2025 AGM 6.30pm and Committee meeting 7pm