

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes – Monday 25th March 2024

1. **Present at meeting & apologies for absence:** Nathalie Brown, Jenny Pine, Carol Squire, Bernard Essery, Tina Campam, Liz Brunwin. Jim Lucas has resigned from the committee due to external pressures. No other apologies.

A discussion took place re who might be approached to join the committee.

Action: Tina to speak to John Reynolds and Nathalie to Carly Warner. Carol to check if David Johnston is willing to resume his place on the committee.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Minutes agreed.

3. Chair's report to & feedback from PC meeting

Village Hall report for PC

The Panto was a huge success selling out all 3 performances!

With the proceeds of the bar, we made a very healthy profit!

All our regular bookings generally are well attended but still could do with a few more people to ensure their survival!

We had a great attendance at the film night in February but slightly fewer in March.

We have my Thai food van booked for April and June film nights so hopefully that will encourage a few more attendees.

Preparations for Shimpling celebrates in May and the summer dance in August are well under way.

Maintenance

Outside lights-

The new exterior lights have been installed by James Brown and Peter Rix and look fantastic, James is also coming on Thursday to install an exterior plug socket.

John Sinclair has purchased new dehumidifier's for the window sills.

He is also going to paint the exterior around the new sensor light and touch up any paintwork around the new water heaters that were installed. Although not urgent.

Solar panels

Unfortunately we didn't receive funding for the solar panels but hopefully we can apply again.

Double Doors

On hold but there are some grants available that we should consider applying for.

4. Financial update

- Finance meeting with Parish Council feedback – there was a discussion about the past arrangements and what was expected by both the PC and the VHC.

The PC is limited in its ability to fund anything that requires substantial funds and so will support the VH to apply for grants for any significant work that needs to be done.

The PC will transfer responsibility for the revenue cost of the WiFi to the VH but will retain funds to pay for the installation circa £3000.

The VH will undertake to organise and fund ongoing revenue and running costs e.g. water, electricity, Fire extinguisher service, PAT testing.

If the VH organises events that are for the village generally (e.g. Shimpling Celebrates, Children's Christmas Party) The VH can apply for a grant from the PC towards the costs, just as the VH does to the Halifax Trust.

The PC recognised that the VH has put a lot of hard work into running events this past year that are both income generating and enjoyed by the residents and that each year can vary in terms of how much profit can be made.

- Current VH account position & year end accounts certification – Jenny
Jenny circulated the current income / expenditure spreadsheet. The panto has put the VH in a good position at year end with nearly £3900 in the bank.
This coming financial year it is hoped the summer dance at Shimpling Park Farms will also generate a good profit.
Once year end accounts have been finalised jenny will get them checked and agreed ready for the AGM.
- Proposed spending for 2024/5
 - Additional plastic wine glasses & coffee mugs – Carol to action
 - Step Ladder – Jenny to action. It was also agreed that ladders must only be used if there is a second person to ensure the safety of the first on the ladder. Bernard reminded the committee that there is a scaffolding tower for use within the hall if there is a need to go up to the ceiling.
 - External Power sockets – the panto made it evident that we need external power sockets on the outside the hall. Jenny has arranged for the electrician who installed the lights to come on Thursday and install one.

5. Hall bookings update – Carol

- **Regular External / Private Bookings** - see events schedule.
My Thai booked to attend the April and June film nights and hopefully attract more people in to see the film.
The Rural Coffee Caravan generally attracts up to 20 people and the RCC are happy to continue to visit Shimpling. The founder of the RCC is stepping back and a request went out to all the villages they visit to submit quilt squares to be included in the leaving present. Mandy Flint created two quilt squares to represent Shimpling and both were included.
Private Bookings - There have been two private bookings in the final quarter of the year and there are two private bookings in April. The hall is also booked for Polling Day on the 2nd May.
- **Fit Villages & Survey.** Carol explained that there may be an opportunity to get additional funding and support to kick start new activities in the VH. "Fit Villages" find out via a survey what people want and support by sourcing local and quality instructors, providing funding towards instructor costs, hall hire fees, equipment costs, marketing and promotion, launching the activities, providing refreshments etc.
Action: Carol to lead on working with them and circulate the survey. Committee members to complete the survey.

6. Future VH Events:

- Children and Families activities and events
 - EASTER Holidays – Carol to remind residents the hall can be booked for Table Tennis sessions.
 - May Bank Holiday - Shimpling Celebrates Day 27th **May 2024**
The programme of events was discussed and revised – see enclosed.

The event and especially the cart race need to be advertised ASAP to encourage people to enter a cart.

Action: Carol to start publicising the cart race and once the other activities / catering etc are confirmed – advertise the day.

Tina confirmed that the climbing wall has been reserved for the event but that if she cannot get anyone else to work with her that day she will need help to erect it and to work with her to oversee the archery and axe throwing or they will not be available.

Action: Tina to try to find a member of staff to work the day

Action: Nathalie suggested Matt Brown could help and will let Tina know if willing.

The Bouncy Castle company will need to be contacted re availability on that day.

Action: Nathalie agreed to make initial contact

Tug of war – Bernard agreed to organise this again this year.

Refreshments: Discussed provision of food and drinks. Suggested that a bar is run in a marquee and perhaps a BBQ. Tina was willing to bring her BBQ to the site.

Action: Committee to ask around and find out if anyone else is willing to man the BBQ

- Income generating events for 2024

- **Summer Dance** – 3rd August - Shimpling Park Farm Barns.

To be run in the same way as last year but SVH to run the bar and no vintage cars.

Action: Carol to circulate the planning template for people to see what jobs need to be done and sign up.

- **Quiz** – Bernard to organise for the autumn. Discussion about what refreshments to provide this year – fish and chips have been a popular offering in the past but don't create much profit for the hall. Nathalie suggested doing something in house, but this would need volunteers to do the cooking. To discuss again next meeting.

Action: Bernard to fix the date and let Carol know so she can advertise it.

Digital / Tech session – Bernard to sort out a date and let Carol know so she can advertise it.

7. Maintenance & improvement of the hall - 3 year rolling maintenance & refurbishment programme 2022-25.

- Redecoration of Toilets and back-room redecoration – **on hold**
- Hall exterior – installation of double doors & solar panels – **on hold**

8. Health & Safety

- External lights – on driveway now installed & external power wall sockets going in on Thursday. Thanks to Jenny for organising.
- Fire equipment monthly checks and Annual Fire evacuation drill - still outstanding.

9. Any other business

Hall Cleaning – John is continuing to clean at present. It was suggested that if he does have to take a break for health reasons, committee members could clean on a rota.

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

29th April – AGM ** changed from 20th May

20th May

22nd July

23rd September

25th November