

ETCHING HILL VILLAGE HALL AGM MEETING June 6th 2018

AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. REVIEW OF MINUTES**
- 3. CHAIRMANS REPORT/ MATTERS ARISING**
- 4. TREASURERS REPORT**
- 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

PRESENT

Joe Thatcher, Lin Workman, Dawn Pickering, Rachel Allen, Brian Shaw, Mick Devey, Justin Johnson, Ivan Wilkes, Colin Cross, Pam Lycett,

1. APOLOGIES

Marg Devey, Marie Havelock, Sarah Bennett, Dave Cotton

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes of 07/3/2018 accepted and approved by Justin Johnson. Proposed by Mick Devey.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT/MATTERS ARISING

The chairman stated: with the exception of the dispute we have with the tennis club, 2017/18 was an uneventful year.

Radiator valves had been replaced, so hopefully no more banging noises when the heating comes on.

A deal of thanks are owed to Dawn's husband Mark who, along with others, discovered a covered up drain near the entrance porch. Surely, originally used to take water from a gutter on the porch. It seems someone must, in the past, have removed all this drainage; the porch walls consequently getting extremely damp. Whatever, Mark reinstated this drainage to hugely good effect.

A great deal of thanks also owed to Dawn herself. She found a new cleaner and 'trained' her. She's found countless occasional hires and a new regular user. One of the event hires was for a wedding reception, during which they made the inside of the hall look like a totally different place. Great photos of this and Dawn got their permission to use these to show what the hall can be like.

The committee's thanks were recorded for both Dawn and her husband.

Chairman then turned to the tennis club dispute, describing the reasons for its occurrence and restating that the committee don't want the dispute; however there simply is no other way to bring the Tennis Club to a negotiation about a sensible rental arrangement. Two members of the Tennis Club – Colin Cross and Ivan Wilkes - were present; their participation resulted in some useful discussion regarding a number of salient issues:

Colin stated that the Tennis Club are prepared to negotiate but were and are inhibited by there being no limit to the possible expense. Chair replied that the VH was only seeking an equal contribution from the TC towards actual expenses and, due to no-one being an expert in estimating these, the fact is there isn't a known limit. But that the VH would be prepared to act as other landlords by agreeing a finite number – however, as in all such situations that number would might well be higher than the actual expense incurred – much as insurance premiums are calculated.

Colin also expressed the TC's disappointment that their suggestion to raise funds through grants, along with the VH, had not been taken seriously. Chair responded that there were overwhelming problems with this proposal namely: grants are never offered for running expenses, but rather for capital projects; applying for such grants is extremely labour-intensive and much of this effort would clearly fall upon the VH as the applying charity; if such endeavours yielded no fruit, the VH would be in exactly the same situation as it now is. Chair stated the VH has no objection to funds – if successfully raised as per this proposal – being used to 'mitigate' the contributions to maintenance of both parties ... but only as a past-the-post activity, not as an embedded part of an agreed solution to the problem of financing maintenance.

Colin and Ivan informed the meeting that a written response to the VH Section 25 letter had been sent to the Chair by Graham Tague on the day of the meeting. (At time of minute distribution this has not been received). The meeting was keen to hear what the content of this reply might be but neither Ivan or Colin had been told what this was.

Lin stated that it is highly desirable to establish a formal, written rental agreement, in place of the existing unwritten arrangement and Colin agreed with this view.

It transpired that Lin has to send invoices etc to Stella because she does not have contact details for the TC treasurer. Also that the Chair does not have a functioning e-mail address for Graham Tague who apparently changed his address some months ago after a computer virus or similar.

Colin said that the TC were still willing and anxious to fix and use the mower to cut the grass ... and wish to do so. The chair responded that as soon as the TC showed some real intent to seriously negotiate the rental situation, this would be sanctioned by the VH. Justin asked if Joe could look into getting the mower repaired to show good will. Joe explained that firstly we want admittance that the tennis club uses the grass.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer reported that the bank funds were dwindling and reserves to be around £10,803, and that we were in credit with the water rates.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Being an AGM Justin conducted the election of officers.

Joe Thatcher was elected Chairman, proposed by Mick, sec by Dawn

Mick Devey was elected Dept Chairman, proposed by Rachel, sec by Lin

Lin Workman was elected as Treasurer - proposed by Joe, sec by Mick

Dawn was elected secretary short term. Proposed by Joe, sec by Mick.

Joe explained the new General data protection rules, the liability of safely storing information and the importance of members giving their consent to receive communications from the Village Hall. Everyone agreed to adopt the policy. Dave Cotton has agreed to be "Data Protection Officer".

Rachel asked about getting a blue recycle bin. Justin said he would look into this and let Lin know.

To wrap up. Chair said it was needed to move forward on a proper rental with the tennis club.

Meeting Closed

Next meeting will be September 5th 8pm