

## MINUTES OF GREAT WHITTINGTON VILLAGE HALL MEETING HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2024

1. Those Present. M. Bassendine, L. Gillam, B. Hinchcliffe, P. Hinchcliffe, M. McKenzie, T. Tiffin, J. Wilkes, E. Young. There were no apologies

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed by the chair.

3. Matters Arising.

Film Club. PH reported that he had been advised by CAN that it was legal to advise all people on our email list that they were to become free members of the hall film club. We could then get a club licence to show films. The committee agreed to do this.

4. Functional Reports.

Events.

Coffee mornings continue to be well supported. PH suggested having an advertising sign at the road end. It was agreed to do this and he was to approach H. Blackett as the land might belong to him. MM suggested inviting Christmas Fair stall holders to attend future mornings, Christmas Fair. This was a great success and stall holders were keen to return this year.

Highlights. EY reported on the next two events, All Things Come on 15th March and A Life in Song on 8th June. Both musical themed productions.

November Club. An entertaining evening on Josie. They intend to produce a musical from this story and the group hope to return to the hall as it progresses in development.

Historical Talk. MB is to arrange this.

BBQ. It was agreed to hold the BBQ around midsummer, possibly June 22nd.

Hall Hire.

EY reported that hall hire income was slightly down this year as we had reduced the charge for regular users as the cost of heating was down. LG reported that Glynis Murray Hill had held one workshop and another was planned. It was agreed that the charge should be the same even though the length of rental was longer. A baby shower was booked for March, Woolly Wanderers 4th May and mayoral election on 2nd May. There would also be a general election.

Finance.

EY gave a financial report. PH suggested that our reserve funds be put into a higher rate account than that available with Lloyds Bank. One was available at the Dudley Building Society at 4.9%. He was to take advice from CAN and ACRE but in assumption that it would be cleared a discussion would be held by email and approval for opening the account would be given. In that event a short meeting would take place just to authorise the following statement.

“It was approved that the village hall shall open a one year bond account with Dudley Building Society with the same three signatories as the Lloyds Account, P. Hinchcliffe, J. Wilkes and E. Young. Any two to sign.”

EY had investigated card readers and found the minimum cost was 1.69%. It was agreed not to pursue this.

Health and Safety.

JW reported that Firepoint had done the extinguisher inspection. It was conducted by a new engineer who claimed an additional extinguisher was needed at extra cost. It was then checked with Northumberland Fire Service and a different operative who both confirmed this was not needed and the additional equipment was returned and not paid for. We need a new fire blanket in the kitchen and PH would order one. He also said that a new type of extinguisher was available which required much less inspection and in the long term would be cheaper. This could be looked into next year. The toilet alarm had been running continuously so JW had it disconnected. PH would contact David Steel to get it repaired.

IT and Facebook.

Nothing new to report.

Gardening.

We thank Jane Pearson for her sterling efforts on clearing the roadside border of roses and brambles. That having been done there is no need for the hold back posts for them and they have been removed.

Maintenance.

PH reported that he had trimmed the front door and he would fit a weather board over the damaged door base. He would look at the closure of the inner door and improve it.

5. Solar Heating and Electricity.

PH reported that the current electricity contract ends at the end of this month. He was dealing with Utility Aid to obtain quotes. He was given authority to sign up for the best deal available. There is no further progress on obtaining a three phase smart meter. If no joy by June he would write to the CEO as the best option for us would be a smart day night tariff and separate Export contract. TT asked about the battery capacity, PH explained that we had 20 kWh and between Jan and Mar 2023 we used an average of 16kwh per day so we had enough. JW asked what happened in event of a power cut and PH explained part of the equipment made our panels continue to operate. LG stated that Jill from Pilates thought it wasn't warm enough and PH agreed to extend the heating period.

6. Emergency Hub.

PH and TT had a trial run. One generator had a damaged spark plug cap which PH would change. BH said it was necessary to do a full committee run through when it became warmer. Agreed. PH stated that he was looking into whether it would be possible to feed the generator through the batteries providing normal power to the whole hall. It would be possible after the meters were changed.

7. Heritage Project.

MB wanted to produce a revised republication of the Whittington in Wartime book with an update about the village hall over the last fifty years. It was agreed that the £300 grant may not be sufficient and additional hall funds may be necessary.

8. EV Charging Point.

Nothing possible until three phase meter installed.

9. Gigabit Project.

Awaiting information from NCC. Still out to tender.

10. Inspiration Award.

PH reported that we had won third prize of £1000 out of 150 entries. It would be publicised in CAN newsletter. PH detailed a draft notice which would be sent to committee members for approval before circulation.

11. AOB.

PH had received an email from Lynda Conway suggesting the hall could provide financial support for defibrillator training. Chris Bryce wanted to do two sessions of training at a cost of £500. JW said she thought this was not necessary as the defibrillator was designed to talk an operative through the procedure. PH said that this year we had already spent £8000 on three major maintenance items and we needed to ensure we had sufficient funds to meet emergencies. The committee felt this was not our responsibility being more appropriate for it to be provided by the Pc. We already provided the electricity at a cost of about £80 per year but in addition we could provide the free use of the hall for training sessions and for a fund raising event. A response would be drafted and circulated to committee members before responding to Chris.

MM asked that this year we improved the garden with pruning the laburnum trees and making a flower bed by the back wall of the garden.

Craft Group. EY suggested the craft group be suspended over the winter and timings in the future could be discussed at the next meeting.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at the beginning of April.

