

Carbrooke Village Hall Meeting 18th April 2017 Minutes

Apologies: Angela Birkby, Alan Willer and Mel Findon

Present: Ed Buscall, Claire Talbot, Pam Morgan, Karrie Richards, Sue Dekeyzer and Debbie Harris

Minutes agreed from previous meeting

Matters arising from previous meeting:

- Two new double sockets put on stage area for disco's etc
- Radiator fixed

Events and Bar:

- Polling Station at Hall on 4th May and 8th June.
- One booking cancelled.
- Friday 12th May is going to be Quiz night for the Church in the main Hall and the Bar will be open as usual.
- Sue Dekeyzer said café was quite successful and had made a little money she had a good mix of new and long term residents. She will ask any of the people that attend the café if they would like to help take it on after the marathon fundraising had finished in May. As the Committee felt this would be a good thing for the Village Hall to continue.

Finance:

Barclays Savings Account £14057.14 and Current Account £2844.94

Money In: Bill Kick Boxing £65.00 and Pre-School £990.00

Money Out: Cleaner £180.00, Caretaker £114.75 and Eon £127.00

Update on grants:

Ed Buscall had applied for the Tesco's bags for help grant where groups could receive anything up to £4000.00. Tesco customers vote in store for their favourite scheme with plastic coins.

Parish Council has not given us a grant due to a typo by our accountant on the accounts and will not look at it again until May meeting. See AOB. Committee very disappointed with this decision as was easily rectified mistake.

Ed Buscall said we going to apply for Breckland Council grant scheme.

Pre-School Cleaning:

The Committee agreed to leave the cleaning rota the same at the moment and have Pre-School work around the Cleaner when it introduces its breakfast/after school club in September. If the probation period goes well and Pre-School have the numbers/interest, then the Committee can look at cleaning rota again.

Hall Bookings:

Karrie Richards said that she had been contacted by the cleaner and Pre-School about the Community Service gardeners turning up with no warning. The cleaner had been reluctant to let them in as she had not been informed they were arriving and Pre-School has safeguarding issues and equipment they need to address/move. Ed Buscall said he had emailed Tony Copen as he head of

Millennium Green Committee to ask that the Booking Clerk be informed so this information it can be passed onto other groups.

Carbrooke Festival:

Karrie Richards had received a request from the Church to come up with a notice board to advertise the Hall that could be placed within the Church and a Hymn to sing at the Festival service. Pam Morgan said she would find an appropriate Hymn. Karrie Richards would find out what size board was needed and who would be supplying it. Also when it needed to be in by.

Village Hall February minutes:

The Village Hall committee discussed the Parish Clerk's request for it to alter the village hall February minutes on the basis that it had said that the Parish Council would not help us reclaim the VAT on hall repairs when the parish clerk believed it should have said could not help reclaim the VAT on hall repairs because he said the Parish Council could not legally claim the VAT back. The Committee took very seriously the charge that it was thought to have asked the Parish Council to act illegally.

The Chair (Ed Buscall) and Debbie Muller said that the Parish Council had in the past bought new windows for the Hall and claimed the VAT back. They said the parish clerk of the time had ensured them this was legal and they believed this was still the case. However, they said the current clerk was adamant that they were wrong and what they were asking the parish council to do was, in effect, illegal.

The Village Hall Committee then considered the National Association of Local Councils' legal topic notes entitled Local Council Help for Village Halls. It noted that its introduction stated: **If a council is the custodian trustee of a village hall, used for charitable purposes, ownership of the hall is vested in the Council.** Given this, the Committee noted that the Parish Council were the owners of the Hall though it was managed on their behalf by the Village Hall committee. As a result, the Village Hall Committee believed that the Parish Council, as owners of the building, should feel more actively responsible for the renovation of the Hall and be more supportive about the works.

The Village Hall Committee then considered Section 5 (Reclaiming VAT) of NALC's legal notes. It observed that a local council, whether or not it owned the Hall, may reclaim VAT if certain conditions are met. Given this, the Committee considered that the Parish Council had acted legitimately in reclaiming the VAT for the windows at the Hall in the past as it has bought them in its own name and did not recover its costs from the village hall or any other voluntary body. This being the case, the Committee considered that the current Parish Council could also buy specified materials for the renovation project in lieu of a grant and then be able to reclaim the VAT.

The Committee also noted HM Revenue & Customs VAT Notice 749 updated in February 2016. It noted that this supported the findings of the NALC Legal Note. Furthermore, it noted that Section 11.3 said that, if grants were received by a local council owning a hall from other grant givers, it could reclaim VAT on work carried out to the Hall. The Committee considered that this meant that if match funding grants for the Hall were sought in the Parish Council's name rather than that of the village hall committee, then the VAT could be reclaimed for materials/works that were paid for by these grants.

The Committee noted that no substantive evidence had been provided to support the parish clerk's assertion that the Parish Council would be acting illegally if it reclaimed the VAT, but that the Parish

Council had still agreed that it was unable to help the Hall with this issue. As a result, the Village Hall Committee agreed unanimously to ask the Parish Council to reconsider its decision about reclaiming as much of the VAT as possible on its behalf. The Committee concluded that its February minutes were fair and accurate.

Next Meeting 15th May