

Minutes of Helpston & Etton Community Association Meeting Held on Tuesday 18th January 2011 at Helpston Village Hall

Present

Trevor Valentine	Chairman
Alison Henthorn	Vice-Chair
Ian Robertson	Treasurer
Tammy Tushingham	Secretary
Caryn Thompson	Booking Secretary
Kate Hinchliffe	WI/PCC Rep
Ann Bell	Indoor Bowls Rep
Shirley Field	Co-opted
Chris Gray	Co-opted
Helen Morton	Etton Rep

Apologies

Rosemary Morton

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 2nd Nov 2010 were read and agreed as true.

Proposed CG seconded CT.

Helen Morton introduced and welcomed as Etton Representative

Matters Arising

Cleaner status: Even though IR has spoken with our cleaner and she has assured us she is self-employed it was felt that we should have sight of something "official" such as her Schedule D ref number.

Action: IR to drop cleaner a note to the effect that we would like her Schedule D ref number.

Sundry Village Hall Items: All purchased

Trestle Tables: Still require a new home for them as TV not happy with them being stored in the hall

Action: TT to ask RM if room in her barn

Botolph Barn Website: AH will be meeting with RA to discuss up-dating website with Village Hall minutes/general info/policies.

Action: AH to report back at next meeting

Luncheon Club: CT had not received outstanding payment.

Action: KH to chase for payment.

New Members: No luck from John Clare Primary & TT had not confirmed with Steve Crowson

Action: AB to speak with Steve Crowson about becoming Tennis Rep.

Daffodils: Planted down West St on the approach to the village. Can review this winter and any "gaps" filled.

Kitchen Heater: Is now working. There was confusion as to whether it was working or not. Was then realised that as the heater was attached to the main heating switch, this had to be "on" for the kitchen heater to work.

Treasurer's Report

See attached. Generally the funds were looking a little better than last year

Chairman's Report

TV read a prepared personal statement in which he declared his intention to resign from his position as Chairman at the next AGM – see attached

TV also went on to say he had conducted some research with other committees in villages where their hall had recently been replaced and funding had been obtained.(See attached) The essence of the information was that for any of our future funding bids to be successful for replacing our hall the first thing that is considered is the "utilisation" of the hall and a 50% minimum usage is expected. As Helpston's is currently 17% it is vital we look to improve the usage of the hall. TV felt this was a major task and one which would require a high degree of commitment and leadership and one which, due to the other demands on his time, was not one he felt he could lead.

Fund Raising

Following on from TV's statements there was a general discussion by the committee as to the implications of the utilisation issue. AH stated that whilst it was a tall order to increase the usage of the hall we could have a concerted effort over the next 12 months to see if we could improve %. General agreement from committee but as it was late it was decided there was insufficient time to discuss such an important issue and it would be discussed at next meeting. TT also raised the point that due to the economic climate PCC has proposed our annual grant be cut from £1250 to £200 for 11/12 year which would have a significant impact on our funding. Finally, TV confirmed that even though he put forward a request to the Gala Committee that a % of the funds raised is donated to the hall, the Gala Committee had decided that all proceeds from the 2011 Gala will be sent to Oxfam.

Utilisation issue to be discussed at next meeting following additional info obtained:

Action: IR to re-work our accounts showing the reduced grant

Action: CT/TT to review 09/10 diary and see where available times were

Action: CT/TT to draw up list of other village organisations to ascertain if they can be targeted to use hall

Action: TT to write article for Tribune highlighting the reduction to our funding

Electricity

IR had carried out some research and distributed schedule showing if we paid our electricity by direct debit we could save £200 approx per annum. Unanimously agreed that IR should arrange this.

Booking Conditions

Committee ran through the booking conditions and it was agreed that as they had been given to us by ACRE we should keep them as they are.

Action: CT to amend booking conditions accordingly and issue completed form to committee at next meeting

Royal Wedding

Committee discussed what/where any village event could take place. Considered Torpel Field, School field, village hall and Temples Court green. Pros and cons for each place. Decided that the school field would be the most appropriate venue due to proximity of village, facilities and size.

Action: TT to speak with Martin Fry to establish his views

Date & Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 15th February 2011 at 8pm in the hall