

EAST WORLINGTON PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting Held on Thursday 11th March 2021
7.30pm via Zoom due to Covid 19 Restrictions

1. Present and Apologies:

Present: Steve Baber (Chair), Campie Hurst Bannister (Vice Chair), Maxine Difford (Secretary), Jonathan Harford, Liz Guppy, Philip Risdon, Ray Bassingthwaite, Maggie Good, Sandy Haughton, Amanda Mastroddi, Lou Mastroddi, Mark Shipley, Angie Lunn

Apologies: Jude Edmonds, Brian Edwards, Nigel Sedgwick (Treasurer)

2. Minutes:

All the points for action from the last meeting have been actioned

Decision	Action
The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 14 th 2021 approved. All in favour	

3. Matters Arising:

- a) **Parish Council Update** – Campie advised the transfer of land at the front of the hall from the Church to the Parish Council was moving forward under Becky Smythe’s direction and ownership is expected to be in possession of the Parish Council soon.
- b) **Virtual Hub Support** – Steve confirmed that email community support is in place to celebrate good news/anniversaries/birthdays, etc and that Margot was happy to have had her 80th birthday recognised during lockdown. This service will not be used to advertise items for sale.

4. Finance:

- a) **Treasurer’s Report** – Nigel was unable to attend the meeting and provided a written report following the meeting. The report is attached to these minutes as an addendum.
- b) **Grant Request** – Steve advised that in the past North Devon Council had historically supported community facilities through a grant to the Parish Council. East Worlington Parish Hall had historically benefited from this grant at approximately £400 per annum. This grant has now ceased. The Committee approved an application to the Parish Council with a specific focus of providing the Hall with a grant to support community groups and organisations using the Hall.

Decision	Action
Apply to Parish Council for a grant to support community groups who use the hall e.g craft group, photographic group, ukulele group, etc	Steve

5. Wi-Fi Broadband Project Update:

At the meeting Steve advised that Nigel had booked a BT survey to enable installation of wi-fi in the hall BT had cancelled on more than one occasion. Mark suggested we could apply for compensation from BT as he had received some when they had not turned up for appointments with him. See the report from Nigel in the attached addendum.

Committee confirmed that the cost of the internet installation and usage would be paid by the hall as part of the facilities supplied and that neither the Parish Council nor Hall users would be asked for a contribution.

6. Hall's Drainage Agreement with East Worlington House:

Steve queried if the agreement would be between the Hall or the Parish Council. Generally agreed that as the Parish Council is the freeholder, the agreement would be between the council and East Worlington House but as the user the Hall agreed to pay the legal fees for the formal agreement that the hall discharge into East Worlington House's sewage system and any running costs. Becky Smythe is liaising.

Decision	Action
Check agreement is between the Hall or the Parish Council	Campie

7. Planning for Hall reopening:

Assuming the Government roadmap does not change, the Hall can reopen for exercise classes on 17th May and Maxine advised that Jane Penfold would like to recommence Wednesday evening Pilates classes. The rule of six will continue to apply until 21st June, at which time other activities can take place in the hall if we wish.

8. Future Events:

Campie confirmed that the Parish Fete would go ahead on 7th August. Further events will be discussed at our next meeting in May.

Decision	Action
Cancel Rock by the River this July as the financial outlay is too much should the event not go ahead. Perhaps have a community picnic in August instead All agreed	Campie to book band for 2022

9. Updates:

- a) **Annual Insurance** – Steve confirmed this had been paid at just over £1,090.05 including employer's liability.
- b) **Fire Inspection** – has been completed and a new certificate has been issued. A new carbon dioxide fire extinguisher was required.
- c) **Monthly draw** – continues, ably assisted by Steve's neighbour.

10. Preparing for the Annual Report:

Steve will write a draft Annual Report for review at the meeting. The AGM is open to the public and Steve will publicise, advising that it has to take place via Zoom due to current regulations.

Maxine will invite the representatives from the Parish Council, Church and School.

11. Fire and Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Checks:

Brian is continuing with the monthly Health and Safety and Fire Alarm Checks and the log book has been kept up to date. There are no outstanding issues.

12. Maintenance:

No issues reported.

Campie advised that she had been in contact with Devon Nature and advised that Tim Smith had been to look at East Worlington House, the hall, church and school. He is very excited by the clutch of buildings as swift's like to colonise an area.

He has suggested two new swift boxes for the front of East Worlington House; two swift boxes on the back of the hall, under the eaves either side of the big black door in Campie's yard; two house Martin boxes on the school, either side of the front door under the eaves; two house martin boxes on the stable wall; two swift boxes either side of the church porch. He thinks the swifts might have a nesting site in the tower and has asked for any of us to keep an eye out to see if they have.

Campie will need to put newspaper bungs in the swift holes in September and remove them in the middle of April, otherwise the sparrows take over.

The church does not wish to have the boxes but Tim will deliver the others and Campie will have them put up.

If anyone would like to contact Tim with a view to installing some boxes, please contact him at timsmith127@hotmail.com

13. Any Other Business:

Campie advised that the defibrillator had been taken to a member of the community who had been taken ill as the emergency services are aware it is there. Fortunately, it was not required and has been returned to its home.

14. Date of AGM and Next Meeting:

7.30pm on Thursday 13th May 2021.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Addendum

Treasurer's Report

1. The finances of the hall are little changed since the last meeting. A few ongoing expenses and no material income. Our net funds stand at £31,427.
2. I have been attempting to unravel the grant situation resulting from the various restrictions enforced due to the pandemic. Unfortunately, it is very unclear as to exactly what the position is. This is because the parish hall is not strictly speaking required to close as the regulations permit us to open to conduct a limited range of activities, for example education. I have been endeavouring to get through to someone at the council for advice on what can be done but it is like speaking to a black hole, nothing comes back. I did, however, finally get a response a couple of days ago and I was told we were eligible to make an application. I remain dubious as to whether we can or not but have nonetheless done so. If it is approved then we will get something in the region of £8000, making the total received grant funding something close to £16,000. I am also investigating the restart grant scheme but am again unsure how this will pan out.
3. BT have been dragging their heels on the installation of the internet connection but this is now almost complete and I hope it will be completed by the end of next week. I have the router here and the external work has been done.
4. We have a reasonable sum of money on deposit with the CCLA and we may soon need to think about closing these accounts as it seems likely that they will soon be offering negative interest rates. If this does occur then it is my intention to close the accounts and move the money into the current bank account.