

**Toller Porcorum Village Hall  
Minutes of Trustees Meeting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**1. Present**

Alex Carstairs (Chair), Charlotte Woodford, Mick Rawling, Judy Miller, Thelma Billen, Nigel Stephenson & Jane Ennals

**2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Ann Bayliss, Christine Burt, Patrick Woodford, Debbie Billen & Rachel Miller

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were agreed and signed as a true record.

**4. Matters Arising**

- a. Alex yet to speak to Kevin about being a key holder & keeping an eye on the hall. **Action AC**
- b. Patrick yet to check compatibility of new £ coins with the meters. It is likely that they wont be in which case we will need to change the meters **Action PW**
- c. Community Orchard – this idea has been scratched since James Gibson has kindly offered to graze his sheep and top the weeds in the paddocks FOC.

**5. Financial Report**

PW submitted a report on the accounts for period 01/01/2017 to 09/07/2017:

	£
Total income	2,181.54
Total expenditure	<u>2,925.37</u>
Deficit	( 743.83)

Gardening category expenditure substantially up this year due to the alteration work to the carpark by James Billen who's bill came into this financial year although the work done last year. But this was a one off expenditure and ignoring that most other costs on a par or down on the same period last year.

Income is up around £600 largely from the electricity meters and the F.I.T from the solar panels. (the annual profit from the solar panels is around £1k). Hall hire is slightly down on last year by £151.

**6. Paddocks & Allotments**

James Gibson has been grazing paddocks with his sheep and topping the nettles. All looks in good heart. No fee charged anymore as we need him more than he needs us. He doesn't require anything in writing either.

Allotments all let bar one although it is a very rough wet plot and it is unlikely anyone would want it. Georgie Stephenson has not yet the rent for her ½ plot (£5). She has been reminded. Peter Crabbe who has moved into 3 High Street has applied for a plot. If Georgie doesn't want her plot we could offer it to Peter but if she does we could let Peter have the rough one for free for the first year. Nigel to remind Georgie of her outstanding rent. **Actions PW & NS**

**7. Carpark**

There is a problem with the increased private use of the carpark. David struggles to strim around parked vehicles. There have been as many as 14 on a number of occasions.

Judy Miller and Alex Carstairs have been in contact with Jill Haynes to try and establish ownership of the car park. It is understood that technically it still belongs to WDDC as there is no legal agreement transferring the land to the Village Hall Trustees. This is irrespective of how much maintenance work we have paid for or the income we receive from the paddocks and

allotments. The trustees did have an opportunity a few years ago to purchase it for £1 but the council did not follow through even though the trustees at the time were willing to pay £1.

There are 2 related issues here – liability for the cars in the car park and use by local residents as overflow parking which impacts on those wanting to use the hall.

Patrick provided a note for the meeting in his absence:-

- a. Liability cannot be totally disclaimed by putting signs up. If we are negligent in some way and there is an accident then we are in the firing line too. But if 2 cars have an accident or a car is broken into and it is no fault of the hall, then that is a problem for the car owner. A notice would simply remind people of that.
- b. Use as overflow parking – this could become a problem for hall users if it remains unchecked. The problem seems to have increased since the car park was extended. It could be regulated by a simple licence allowing parking except when the hall is in use requiring the car park to be clear of all cars. It would mean finding who the car owners are. The worst scenario would be a gate with a lock which we should try and avoid!

Agreed to come up with appropriate wording for a sign and para to be put in the Toller Times to remind residents that the car park is for the users of the hall and allotments only and advise them to find alternative places to park. There was a suggestion that those parking without permission could make a donation but we discounted that as it would likely give them a feeling of a "right" to continue parking.

Patrick & Alex to liaise and for Colin Smith to erect a sign.

**Action PW & AC**

## **8. Maintenance Matters & Spending**

Recent heavy rainfall caused flooding at the backdoor during the election and water was overlapping the doorstep. It is likely that the drain is blocked preventing water from draining away. Jane to ask David to take a look

**Action JE**

There is a football lodged under a solar panel on the roof. Agreed to leave it there for now

It was agreed that at times when small minor plumbing and electrical issues arise requiring the local regular tradesmen we use it is best to contact them direct to come out. An element of discretion will be required dependent on the size and value of the job. Let Alex or Charlotte know when you have contacted to avoid duplication of efforts!

Electrician – Leo Davies 07717 682979

Plumber – Steve Bull 01300 320032

DIY – Harry Turner 01300 320182

Dishwasher – there have been various discussions about whether or not the dishwasher is in fact a sanitizer as people reluctant to use it and it isn't very intuitive. Alex confirmed it is an industrial dishwasher and we did do a lot of research before investing quite substantially in it. Instructions have been provided and are on the wall next to it. We are not going to remove or replace it.

Front door key safe – to be lowered as currently too high for many users to see the numbers.  
Patrick to ask Harry

**Action PW**

## **9. Fundraising**

Alex explained the reason for fund raising is to ensure extra income to avoid depleting our savings and it does provide for some very good social opportunities for villagers.

It was agreed to hold a Quiz in late autumn. Jane to speak to David and get some dates and get it into the next Toller Times. The deadline for this is the end of August

Colin Baker will be 90 in 2018 and he is planning a party at his house but, it was agreed to offer Colin the village hall facilities FOC should he like it. Alex to speak to him **Action AC**

The Village Show may not make as much money this year as the prize money has gone up. It was also suggested that winnings should not proactively distributed as they have been done in recent years and let people come and request them. When the show originally started we approached it in this way and people were less inclined to take the money.

Race Night – it was suggested that this would be a good, fun social occasion with the potential to raise some funds. Nigel offered to look into this **Action NS**

**Date of Next Meeting: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at 7.30pm.**

**Meeting closed at 20:20**