

HERSTMONCEUX VILLAGE HALL  
Management Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**Present:-** Jo Angear, Joyce Burt, Karena Mayhew, Mary McBurney (Chair), Gerald MCBurney, Chris Thompson.

**1. Apologies:-** Karen Hathaway, Brian Naish.

**Attending:-** Rhys Clatworthy.

**2. Minutes** of last meeting agreed as true record and signed by chairperson.

**3. Matters Arising:- a) Drainage.** Rhys C said Active Pumps had serviced the pumps; certification awaited. Mary McB raised issue of camera usage and thought it should be done more regularly say twice yearly. Rhys C had enquired of rep as to whether agreement had been set up. Rhys reported nothing recorded by rep who was recommending once a year.. Jo A wondered if this all meant we no longer seeking funding for drainage. Mary McB reminded meeting that preparing application for such a grant needed three estimates, would be time consuming and was concerned that seeking funds from the Viola Trust and perhaps again having to decline their offer,(if made), if other necessary and substantial supporting funds were not forthcoming. If that happened it would be the second time we had declined such an offer and probably would not put us in favour with the Trust. She thought that given the drains were reported to be operating correctly a more immediate priority was replacement of the 'blown' double glazed windows. The search for funds for a calgester should be put on hold for the time being but we needed to do all we could to be sure drainage system continued to work. Karen M said we should utilise cameras and favoured six monthly usage at cost of around £60 per time. **Agreed**

**b)Window replacement.** Rhys said he had not been able to seek estimates but would do so as time permitted.

**c) Cords on door blind.** Although more safely tied nothing permanent seemed to have been done. Rhys C offered to speak to Karen H and if necessary arrange for suitable solution.

**4. Treasurers Report.** In absence of Ian S, Mary M suggested finance details would be sought later and inserted into the record. (Ian later reported Income £3,254 : Expenditure £3,373.72).

**5. Caretakers' Report.** Total bookings at end of September were £35,749, a 0.15 % increase over the month period, (£530.00 – 1.5% behind the end of year figures for 2013). 2015 total value of booking is £29,346 which equals a 1.1% increase over the last month and this is 7.1% over same time last year. Electricity bill for 4 weeks was £223.33p. Some strip lighting in main hall still out of action to be attended to. Water heater in kitchen has been replaced Up-lighting in small hall totally blown as too many 100watt bulbs on the dimmer system. Electrician trying to find solution but as mentioned at last meeting discovery of micro computerised control system complicates matters. Strip lighting working OK. Uncertainty over main hall system being similarly controlled. Agreed electrician should be asked to check main hall system but also agreed small hall should be concentrated on at present. Rhys C mentioned that the refuse was no longer collected by Haulaway who had sold contract on to The Recycling Partnership. Agreement in office. Chairperson told meeting of letter, received shortly before today's meeting, from a representative of the choir which has regular booking for small hall for practice. Letter complained of double booking quoting that choir members turned up to use hall on only to find HATS in occupation.

Letter sought assurances this not happen again. Mary M had briefly spoken to Rhys C before meeting and Rhys produced letter sent to choir organiser in March 2014 which confirmed the choir's regular booking making it clear that hall would not be available for the choir on that November date as HATS would have use. Rhys said he had a signed agreement form from the choir organiser showing receipt of letter and acceptance of the booking terms. It was agreed Mary M would respond to complaint.

**6. Maintenance.** (a) Karen H was thanked for painting small hall and small kitchen to dado rail height. (b) Joyce H was thanked for her repair of a chair upholstery and reminded to claim for her costs. She mentioned only another '19 chairs to go' .

**7. Risk Assessment.** This still pending but Karena, and Mary set date for the work.

**8. A.O,B.** Letter from Brian Naish, about particular difficulties HATS faced, read to meeting. Chris T then gave details about the extra work HATS members had to put in after performances, putting away most if not all of their sound and lighting equipment plus chairs and the Thrust stage. The shows ran inclusively from Tuesday to Saturday evenings. Within that spell there would normally be other regular users. It was generally acknowledged that putting equipment away after a show would be wearing and time consuming. It was also understood that in the past the bowls group had co-operated and had voluntarily agreed some changes to their booking. The chairperson summarised mentioning that if HATS had exclusive use of the hall then regular users would lose their bookings and also that other potential bookings could be lost. The meeting also needed to be sure that we were not setting a precedent that could rebound on the committee in the future. Members views were sought. Chris wondered if 'average losses' could be taken into account. He didn't think the hall would lose a lot and said the use of the small hall and lounge during daytime were not at issue, it was just the large hall. Karena thought we should help if possible but equally loss of income needed to be considered. Other members expressed similar views. Mary concluded that she would like to hear Ian's views and also consult with Rhys before making a decision.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

**9. Future meetings:-** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December ; Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
**Annual General Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015**