



## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Present: Adrian Smith (AS); John Sypher (JS); Sarah Courbet (SC); Lorna Sage (LS); Eileen McHugh (EMH); Andy Humphries (AH); Ray Yarnell (RY); Norma Yarnell (NY); John Alexander (JoA); Jim Parker (JP); Grace; David Matthews (DM); Joanne Morton (JM);

### Apologies:

Philip Aubrey (PA); Bob Dale (BD); Kate Brennan (KB); Peter Higgins (PH); Jill Alexander (JA); Barry Lynock (BL); Dorothy Snaddon (DS);

Not in attendance: Martin & Pat Phipps;

## Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November were signed without amendments. Jim asked for the October speaker to be recognised as excellent – so carried.

## Matters arising

The Meadows – The proposed work is to be carried out at Hopwood Cricket Club and car parking. Senior playing facilities will be available at Hopwood as changing facilities are already in place. As part of this project The Meadows drainage is going to be addressed and 4 mini football pitches are to be built to provide facilities for 7 – 9 year olds. Total budget is circa £70K. It is hoped that there may be some money left over to update the playing equipment at The Meadows. The work will be carried out at the end of April, weather dependent. DM mentioned that there is an ongoing discussion about providing paths between the playing equipment for parents with buggies.

JoA is willing to stay on as Treasurer until their personal situation is better known. AH suggested putting posters up to advertise the position of Treasurer. LS suggested putting the vacancy up on the website. AS to include the vacant position within the Annual Report notices. JA will resign her position on the committee as Hopwood WI representative at the same time as JoA.

Christmas Revels – JA reported on the financial position of the evening:

Total income was £1223 consisting of:

Ticket sales £610; bar -£516; raffle - £97.

Expenditure – EMH - £355.58; AH (beer) - £89; AS band & drinks - £346.82. Hall hire - £38. Total - £829.40. Profit - £393.60.

Donations: Acorns - £250. Bells Fund - £50 as a thank you to Geoff Franklin for website work.

£93.60 is remaining for the AVS funds.

EMH did mention that the organisation and management was a little overwhelming. AVS needs to be better organised and allocate tasks well ahead of the event. Outside catering was mentioned as an option.

AGM – suggested that the choir perform after the meeting as the entertainment.

Life Membership Survey – AS thanked those committee members that have helped with identifying life members and updating their details. AS passed round the latest list to see if we could identify further 'missing' members. AS will send out report asking them to confirm if their details are still correct – if nothing heard then they will be removed from the life membership list. AH suggested we send out the report with a slip asking the queried members to confirm their details. Further amends to the list to be forwarded to AS as soon as possible.

Annual Members – JoA has drawn up a list of annual members along with the date they last paid.

## 2010/11 Programme

EMH informed the meeting she was unable to do the September meeting. Volunteers needed to take on this evening.

RY very kindly volunteered to help EMH with the annual programme organising. JP had done some research on previous topics and speakers from previous programmes. JP to pass ideas to RY.

A discussion ensued on charging for talks and walks. Speakers are becoming more expensive and we need to consider how we may recoup some of this money. A suggestion of charging £1 on every talk and walk was muted – perhaps to include a drink at the talk? Or perhaps increase subscription? AH volunteered to help out with drinks at talks and suggested a rota for helpers. New charge of £1 to be proposed at the AGM as a trial period for a year.

SC suggested a questionnaire to ask members for ideas at AGM. SC to draft up short questionnaire and circulate to committee for comment so we can produce it for the AGM. EMH did point out we are finding it difficult to recruit younger members. RY suggested doing a quiz a couple of times a year instead of talks. With so many groups in the village it is getting harder to recruit new and younger members.

EMH suggested that we provide the new Persimmon development with information on AVS to promote the village and the AVS. AS to drop some leaflets, reports and programmes to EMH who has kindly offered to drop them down to the Showhome opening on Saturday.

## Annual Report

AS has had contributions from most committee members. AS is looking for pictures for the report – St Laurence is celebrating 150 years since it's refurbishment. AS to send draft report out in electronic format to all members asking for comments/additions/proof reading. PA has offered to provide a Presidents Statement for inclusion.

AH mentioned that John Sidwell was missed from the list of past Presidents in the previous Report, as well as Julie Kirkbride. AS to ensure this is corrected in this year's report.

AS said that he had been passed the AVS 'bag'. AS to ensure he retains any useful items and the remainder will be recycled.

## Finance

JoA handed over a copy of the financial report for year ending 31/12/2010 and ran through the notable items. JoA had broken out items such as Xmas party and the Dellow Day. A profit was recognised as nearly £250 – a big improvement on last year's deficit of nearly £300.

Costs for the 2010 report are expected to be similar to 2009 (£610). 300 copies were printed in 2009.

Current account now stands at £2002.95. Footpath account stands at £793.29.

JoA stated that the accounts have not been audited as they should be approved by the Committee before this happens. JoA to provide the accounts to the Auditor for auditing. The committee approved the accounts unanimously.

JoA has also included a copy of his draft report for the Annual Report. AS has included in the Report pack to be circulated for comment. AS to include a comment on JoA's intention to stand down at some point in the future.

A reminder to pay their subs should go into the Annual Report along with a suggestion for people to pay by Standing Order. AH to provide a draft covering letter to include.

## Footpath Report

A missing fingerpost was sent to BL who has dealt with it. BL has offered to lead a walk during the forthcoming programme. BL did mention some hassle over the funding last year; the Council has apologised and reassured him that this won't happen again.

BL has asked for his email to be corrected in the next programme – [barry.lynock@gmail.com](mailto:barry.lynock@gmail.com).

BL has already identified a considerable amount of work for this year. Committee members to notify BL of any work that needs carrying out.

## Walks

Next walk is on 6<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm. AH to phone the Phipps to confirm they are still OK for this walk.

JM reported the walks have been fairly well attended. It was noted it was a shame that the Boxing Day walk was cancelled but following an accident the previous week on the car park it was decided it would be sensible to cancel the walk. LS did ask that the leader was compensated as he was asking for donation to the Hedgehog Fund. It is anticipated that we would revisit this walk at some point.

JM mentioned that a draft poster asking for leaders was drawn up. AS suggested that we put a note in the Annual Report. AS thanked JM for her support.

## Marketing

Nothing to report that hasn't already been mentioned.

## Village Issues

**PACT** – The police's mobile monthly surgery may account for the lower attendance at the recent PACT meeting. Issues highlighted were HGV traffic in Storage Lane, speeding and traffic around Hopwood and removal of the mini roundabout at the bottom of Tanyard Lane.

June Griffiths is the new councillor for Alvechurch and was in attendance. She agreed to take the issues on board and work with them.

There will be 3 PACT meetings a year and the next one coincides with the annual Parish Council meeting.

Village Hall – NY said there was talk about the need to raise the cost of hiring the Village Hall due to increased heating bills. NY did mention that we had been asked previously about moving evenings. AS reminded the meeting that we had discussed this before and agreed that we couldn't move due to the potential impact on membership. AH to ask NY to mention that the doors are very difficult to operate and could they consider repairing the latches and mechanisms.

EM has been in touch with John Morgan, a previous speaker, who has offered to open up their gardens 6<sup>th</sup> July or 17<sup>th</sup> July. It was proposed as the Summer Outing and accepted. It is a very steep garden but it is accessible to most people. It was agreed that we would visit on the Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July.

## AOB

JA reminded the committee members that subscriptions are due as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

Blocked culverts – SC to contact British Waterways reference the dead fish.

## Future Committee meeting

Next meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March and will include the fulfillment of the Annual Report.