

BADLESMERE LEES VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday, 9 October 2018

Those present: Ian Earl (Chair), Sue Earl (Secretary), Rick Blackman (Treasurer), Dave Austin, Ben Pullen;

Apologies for absence: Katie Bennett, Fred Gregory, Charlie Kirby, Tom Sisley

Also attending: Steve Burt

1 Minutes of April and July meetings.

1.1 The minutes were passed.

2 Matters arising from the July meeting (or carried forward from January and April).

- 2.1 Chairs – yet to be purchased. Awaiting an occasion when a suitable vehicle will be going to or near Tilbury, to save on fuel and the DartCharge.
- 2.2 Tractor tyre – still not in position. The problem is not so acute since a local resident often has a car parked in the lay-by thus preventing lorries from using it.
- 2.3 Village Sign – minimal progress but the rumoured cost of the sign at Graveney (similar to what is being considered for Badlesmere) would put such a sign out of our reach. The matter is to be considered in detail again in January when better costings should be available. The Sheldwich-style silhouette may have to be reappraised.
- 2.4 IE is still acting as Hall Manager.
- 2.5 Defibrillator training took place on 18 September at which eighteen residents and five First Responders (with their dummies) attended. Feedback from those who came was very positive, and all present were given the code to the key-safe in the telephone box. IE asked the First Responders to find out whether Badlesmere's PAD is recognised by SECAMB. It wasn't (despite The Community Heart Beat Trust, the charity with which it is affiliated, having been told it was), but is now (confirmed on 8 October). It was agreed to give a £75 donation to the First Responders, who are volunteers and have to fund-raise in order to purchase equipment such as their dummies.

3 Accounts

- 3.1 The bank balances as at 8 October are: the current account is £6361.05 and the Business Reserve account £3845.80. A few cheques have yet to be presented.
- 3.2 Mediaeval Fayre – the final balance sheet, now that all post-event sales are in, shows that a profit of £678.90 was made if the cost of those items bought for the Fayre but which can be used again (and so are now classed as Hall equipment, and costing £187.37) are excluded.
- 3.3 It is realised that there is still no formal policy for the business reserve account and that transfers from the current account to it should have taken place. It was agreed that the policy, when written, should simply state that any profits from the day-to-day running of the village hall should be transferred at the accounting year-end and the

reserve be there to finance those expenditures which only occur occasionally such as major maintenance and improvements to the hall. The painting of the hall's exterior and the replacement of timbers within the walls (see below) are two such occasions.

3.4 The 100 Club winners for May to September are:

May: £15 R Blackman, £10 D Potter;

June: £15 A Moore, £10 J Vant;

July: £15 J Hope, £10 S Moore;

August: £15 I Pullen, £10 J Vant;

September: £15 O Moore, £10 M Moore.

4 Jane Gregory

4.1 It was with sadness that the Chairman had to report in July that Jane Gregory, a long-standing and very active member of the committee, had passed away after battling for some time an incurable illness. Her considerable input to the committee and her no-nonsense approach will be sorely missed. To the last she continued to offer advice when she couldn't carry out actions herself. The committee has already sent condolences to Fred and his family, and many members were able to attend the funeral. It was typical of Jane that she had insisted that the wake at the Red Lion should be a joyous occasion and it duly celebrated the zest she gave to life.

4.2 The Wine and Wisdom evening scheduled for Saturday 24 November will be re-named in remembrance of Jane Gregory.

4.3 Fred, with daughter Olivia's help, will continue to run the 100 Club.

4.4 The post of Events Co-ordinator is now vacant.

5 Mowing of the Lees

5.1 The Lees has suffered somewhat this year, firstly from a late first cut that caused a considerable quantity of mulch to be left on the ground, followed by a long, hot, dry spell during which weeds grew but not the grass. Subsequent mowings always improved the appearance but did not solve the all-weeds-and-no-grass problem particularly near to the village hall (most of the rest of the Lees looks alright). A final cut took place last week, meaning the mowing has cost £600 this year. The quality of the mowing by Ben Bowles is regarded as excellent – the problems were not of his doing. IE has sought advice as to a remedy for the current state – and in all cases it was felt that spending money on any action now could not guarantee a solution. Leaving it until the Spring may allow the grass to recover and taking no action now would not make it worse. Ben will be asked to continue with the contract (to be confirmed at the January meeting) and an extra (earlier) cut will be scheduled.

6 Vandalism

6.1 A 3-foot deep hole was found dug on the Lees to the west of the village hall. It had been camouflaged by grass cuttings and contained a blue plastic barrel and the blade

of a handsaw. It was discovered during mowing – the barrel and saw got caught up in the mower, but luckily a wheel of the tractor did not go into the hole. An adjacent tree has been subjected to the sawing off of branches. About the same time part of the exterior to the village hall (the plywood outside of the point where the gas heaters used to be on the inside) was also damaged. The culprits have not been identified but residents will be asked to keep a look out and report any suspect behaviour to the Chairman or any other committee member as soon as possible.

7 Hall Maintenance

- 7.1 The kitchen water heater had corroded so much that it leaked internally and was causing the kitchen power supply to trip out. In July it was replaced, and IE took the opportunity to revamp the kitchen plumbing and install local isolating valves, an expansion tank and a pressure-reducing valve (and to reposition the existing pressure-release valve), all in accordance with the manufacture's recommendations.
- 7.2 Kevin Walters has been informed of the committee's agreement (IE collected members' opinions by email after the inquorate July meeting) to his painting the roof when he can (this is dependent on the weather and his other contracts). It was agreed that IE should approach Simon Picot for help in the investigation of the state of the timbers within the external walls and their replacement, and that this should take place before the external walls are painted. The money for the timber work and the painting is to come from the Business Reserve account as well as the current account.

8 'Battles Over' – A Nations Tribute, 11 November 2018

- 8.1 It was agreed long ago that we would light our beacon as part of the nationwide commemoration of the ending of the Great War. CK will fuel the beacon. IE has been in touch with Sheldwich School to see if they would like to take part in any way, but has yet to receive a reply. DA has offered his PA system and himself as MC. We need to comply with the timings and a minimum content as declared by the Pageantmaster, but what else we do is up to us. It was agreed that we should have a simple ceremony and then continue with an informal gathering in the village hall. Food will not be provided but liquid refreshment will – not unlike how we celebrated the Queen's Birthday in 2016.
- 8.2 It was agreed that Fred Gregory be invited to light the beacon (IE to approach him), and that we should try to find a bugler who could play The Last Post, resorting to a recorded version if unsuccessful (IE to email the village).

9 Badlesmere 10km Run (Steve Burt was invited to attend)

- 9.1 Steve Burt kindly revisited the committee to repeat his suggestion that Badlesmere hold a 10k Run. Members had read IE's precis of what was said at the July meeting and were enthusiastic. Various aspects were considered, and it was agreed to replace the Badlesmere Mediaeval Fayre with a Run next year (with the Fayre to return in 2020, all being well). A nominal date was set as early September (Ashford had their 10k Run last weekend, i.e. in October). The question of the route is paramount (SB

and RB to liaise) and getting to and from the country roads an issue (the A251 is to be avoided, obviously, but the track from the Lees to Badlesmere Church was felt unsuitable). Since styles are unacceptable on such a Run, a temporary gate will be needed and, also, permission from the land owner to use an alternative route to the public right of way across the field at the bottom of the Lees. (IE to contact Lees Court Estate.) It was hoped that the number of volunteers needed – for example, to man the tearoom (in the village hall) and a carpark, and to act as track marshals – could be met by the village without too much difficulty.

- 9.2 That Steve Burt should be on the Lees and Hall committee and not just co-opted to organise of the Run was suggested. His election to the committee was proposed by IE and seconded by BP, with all voting in favour.

10 AOB

- 10.1 Swale B C's recently released update on the New Garden Communities Prospectus (IE had broadcast it by email to all on his mailing list), wherein there is a proposal to build 5000 homes on a 319 ha green-field site south of the M2, straddling the A251 and surrounding North Street, is causing considerable concern amongst villagers and in this committee. This is essentially a parish (Sheldwich, Badlesmere and Leaveland together) issue rather than one that concerns Badlesmere Lees only and so the Parish Council is the best organisation through which to give a village response. IE was asked by DA to inform his mailing list that a public meeting has been arranged for 21 November at 7.30 pm in Sheldwich Village Hall.
- 10.2 The sign on the 'triangle' has been demolished (it is lying on the Lees), and the ground and granite sets still get regularly churned up by lorries turning. IE to inform Kent Highways.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, 8 January 2019, at 7.30 pm.

Reminder: The Jane Gregory Wine and Wisdom Evening is on 24 November 2018.