

BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday, 12 October 2021

Those present: Ian Earl (Chair), Sue Earl (Secretary), Dave Austin, Steve Burt, Fred Gregory.

Apologies for absence: Rick Blackman, Gareth Fulton, Charlie Kirby, Katie Potter, Ben Pullen, Tom Sisley.

1 Minutes of the July meetings.

1.1 The minutes were passed.

2 Matters arising (unless dealt with in the agenda items below).

2.1 The Reserves Policy will be updated soon (IE).

2.2 The prizes of the 100 Club for January to July have been distributed.

2.3 (IE's roles) TS has accepted responsibility of putting out the village hall's bins on a Tuesday.

2.4 SE carried out a major clean (4 hours) of the kitchen and its contents prior to the September booking of the hall which included use of the kitchen.

3 Accounts

3.1 Balances in the accounts as at 10 October are as follows:-

BPH current account £10729.51

BPH reserve account £19363.21

BLPC current account £776.84

BLPC reserve account £3208.16

3.2 10K Run. Since the run was originally organised under the auspices of the village hall but the income from online entries paid into the current account of the lees preservation committee, a transfer of funds from the BPLC to the BPH has been necessary. Only income received in 2021 has been transferred (£2700.64) as any prior to 1st January will have already been subject to the transfers that have happened between the accounts.

3.3 A new set of regular hirers have materialised (two hirings to date) – The Seven Sisters. They are the women's section of the Seven Champions Molly Dancers, who want their own night to rehearse, and have chosen Mondays.

4 Badlesmere 10K Run

4.1 This second Run was successfully staged on 5th September having been postponed twice due to the pandemic. 191 runners entered, though only ~150 actually took part. A profit of £2123.60 was made. Particular thanks are due to the main organisers, SB, RB, IE and SE, to Phil Scutt, the farmer over whose land much of the race is run, and to the many volunteers and marshals without whom the event could not happen.

4.2 The Third Badlesmere 10K Run will be held on Sunday 4th September 2022. A limit of 300 entries will be set with the expectation that ~250 will actually participate. This is what the organisers believe can be accommodated without any change to the facilities or arrangements on the day, though an extra insurance premium may result. The

entry fee will be raised by £2. The profits of this run will be directed to the lees preservation committee and, in particular, the funding for a village sign.

5 Other Fund Raising and Events

- 5.1 The Wine and Wisdom normally scheduled in November will not go ahead until spring 2022 at the earliest due to concerns over a probable winter spike in Covid cases.
- 5.2 Jane Austin has volunteered to organise the 2022 Mediaeval Fayre.

6 Cleaning

- 6.1 It was agreed that two hours of cleaning in one session once a month is not enough to keep the hall clean enough for our regular hirers. Since our usual cleaner has not offered to return after the last lockdown, SE has offered to clean one hour each week as a new arrangement. This arrangement will be reviewed in six months' time.

7 Maintenance and refurbishment of the Hall

- 7.1 The first steps in improving the facilities and state of the village hall have been taken with the purchase of an American style fridge-freezer, a Henry Extra vacuum cleaner, and 72 folding chairs, 2 chair trolleys and a trestle table trolley. The three old fridges, the chest freezer, and the old, torn or battered, chairs have been removed.
- 7.2 With the prevalent use of cards in place of cash these days (accelerated by the pandemic) problems were encountered by the refreshments team at the recent 10K Run. A SumUp card reader has therefore been purchased which connects to the mobile phone service (or WiFi) allowing payment by card. (This was the solution to a similar problem at the recent Lounge on the Lees event in Sheldwich.) It is unlikely to work within the village hall itself, due to the hall's metal roof and walls, but it will be indispensable at future 10K Runs and similar outside events.
- 7.3 A survey by the refurbishments sub-committee, led by SB, concluded that there was no feasible rearrangement of the toilets and the lobby that would accommodate three toilets, let alone four as desired including a disabled toilet, and give enough room for storage of hall furniture and the gazebos, etc. Consideration will now be given to extending the hall, and advice sought, including on the availability of grants for such improvements.

8 Safety

- 8.1 Concern exists over the uneven and treacherous state of the ground where people would go if evacuation via the emergency exits from the stage and the toilets was required. IE will place temporary paving and fencing, as a costly more permanent arrangement would be inappropriate if the area in question is to become an extension to the hall (see 7.3 above).

9 Maintenance of the lees and tracks (BLPC)

- 9.1 A large ash tree came down in a recent storm, also causing damage to a neighbouring beech tree. The Estate has been informed.
- 9.2 The experiment of mixing powdered cement with the type 1 when filling in pot holes on the North track (carried out earlier this year on the track from the village hall

onwards) seems to have produced a more durable repair. This will now be carried on the track from the triangle to the village hall, coordinated by SB in the absence of BP.

9.3 The metal post for erection in the northern layby on the A251 has been manufactured.

10 Village Sign

10.1 A review of the current ideas for the design of the sign gave rise to the concern that there were too many elements to the picture and to a return to the preference of a silhouette, due mainly to an appreciation of the simpler design of the medals given out at the 10K Runs. IE will approach the designer of the Sheldwich sign, taking up an offer that was made some years back.

11 AOB

No items.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, 11 January 2022, at 7.30 pm in the village hall.