

BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday, 8 January 2019

Those present: Ian Earl (Chair), Katie Bennett, Steve Burt, Fred Gregory, Charlie Kirby, Ben Pullen, Paul Weedon.

Apologies for absence: Dave Austin, Rick Blackman, Sue Earl, Tom Sisley.

1 Minutes of October meeting.

1.1 The minutes were passed.

2 Matters arising from the October meeting.

2.1 Village sign. IE has ascertained that the sign at Graveney (having the closest design to the one envisaged for Badlesmere Lees, a picture rather than a silhouette) cost at least £6800 (from the parish council website) and probably nearer £9000 (hearsay). This expenditure far exceeds what is thought possible to be raised or what should be spent. IE will invite (offered) input from Bill Harbour and Ben White who were the main instigators of the Sheldwich sign (a silhouette), while keeping FG (artistic input) and RB (finance) fully involved.

3 Accounts.

- 3.1 The bank balances as at 31 December are: the current account is £7157.01 and the Business Reserve account £3847.73. £528.62 of cheques written in 2018 have yet to be presented and will reduce the current account to £6628.39. The return of prize money (3rd prize December draw) won by Lady Sondes is gratefully acknowledged.
- 3.2 The Jane Gregory Wine and Wisdom, November 2018: the profits from this well-attended and extremely enjoyable event were £684.63, an all-time high. All due credit goes to Fred and his family.
- 3.3 The 100 Club winners for October to December are:
October: £15 J Austin, £10 B Earl;
November: £15 A Folland, £10 T Sisley;
December: £150 Mr C Jones, £50 J Vant, £25 The Countess Sondes.

4 Fund-raising.

- 4.1 Mediaeval Fayre: to be missed for a year, with the intension of holding a bigger and better, biennial event in 2020.
- 4.2 Badlesmere 10K Run – see below.
- 4.3 Wine and Wisdom: Fred Gregory has agreed to keep the tradition alive, with the date provisionally set as Saturday, 30th November 2019.
- 4.4 The post of Events Co-ordinator is still vacant. However, Lorraine Blackman has offered to run the 100 Club's much to the committee delight and relief.

5 Dates of future meetings.

- 5.1 It was agreed to stay with the existing arrangement (the second Tuesday in the chosen months), making the dates of the next four meetings as 9th April, 9th July, 8th October 2019 and 14th January 2020.
- 5.2 The AGM will be held on 14th May 2019.

6 Hall hiring and hall maintenance.

- 6.1 A new regular group has begun to use the hall – the Seven Champions Molly Dancers – on Thursday evenings. One complaint as to the noise has been received. IE will investigate both the noise aspect and the possible wear and tear on the hall floor.
- 6.2 This year, the roof of the hall will be painted, an electrician will be sought to replace the consumer unit and associated wiring in the kitchen (for the hall heaters) and to refurbish the emergency lighting (already actioned), and a start on repairing or replacing the timber frame should begin. When the last item is completed, the painting of the rest of the outside of the hall will be arranged. It is hoped that time will be found for the construction of shelving in the lobby of the toilets so solving the problem of where to put our four gazebos (one newly donated to the village hall by CK), the original location for them being the drawers under the stage which are now full of Mediaeval Fayre equipment.

7 Mowing of the Lees.

- 7.1 The contractor used in 2018, Ben Bowles, will be invited to return in 2019, with the first cut to be carried out earlier than in 2018. This will increase the number of cuts by at least one. Concern was expressed over the state of grass on the lees, brought about by the late first cut last year followed by an exceptionally dry period. It was felt that the grass should recover in time, but reseeding by hand will be considered if it does not seem to be happening.

8 Badlesmere 10K Run.

- 8.1 A route has been designed by Steve Burt and Rick Blackman which is mostly on local country lanes with the remainder along Rabbit Valley (Hogben's Hill to Sheldwich) on public footpaths and a final stretch (from Shottenden Road to the Lees) across fields deviating from the designated public footpath in order to use field gates and avoid styles. The preferred date is early September.
- 8.2 The farmer, over whose land the run might take place, has been contacted and is extremely positive about the event, not only being prepared to move livestock but offering to help in any way he can. Lees Court Estate, the land owners, are also on board, subject to our complying with the requests that the earlier in September the better, that all litter, such as discarded water bottles, be collected, and all signage will be removed as soon as possible after the event. Both the farmer and the Estate are allowing the deviation from the public right of way of the very last part of the run.

- 8.3 Insurance for the event can come from the existing village hall policy, as expected numbers are likely to be around 200.
- 8.4 SB will be the main organiser of the event, with help from RB and IE. Recruitment of marshals will take place later.

9 The 'Triangle', Leavemere parking, and the Village Hall car park.

- 9.1 Kent Highways have been informed that the sign on the 'Triangle' (at the entrance to the north track) indicating the bridle way (No. ZR 475) has been completely demolished, and that the 'Triangle' (effectively a verge) has been considerably churned up by HGVs. They gave no response as to the state of the Triangle, nor to the suggestion that bollards be put there by them or by local residents; they simply passed the matter on to 'Footpaths'. The committee discussed what could be done to prevent repeated damage by HGVs. It felt that any object or obstacle placed on the Triangle by anyone other than the council could be the subject of a claim if damage occurred to a vehicle hitting it. However, the broken sign could be repaired and returned to its original position (currently lying on the lees nearby) to have something on the triangle so it is not bare as it is at the moment, and a suitably painted, and strong, post could be erected at the apex of the Triangle just on the private (Lees Court Estate) land. SB to action.
- 9.2 Parking by Leavemere bungalows has caused some concern recently but the judicious use of our 'Polite Notices' have resulted cars being moved, owners becoming more respecting of the need for clear access along the track, and a dog-walker now parking at the village hall instead.
- 9.3 When the village hall car park is full, some cars are being parked on the verge beyond the car park, despite the existence of small boulders and causing considerable rutting, rather than using the space on the lees before the car park. Their owners will be asked to choose the lees rather than the verge, and a sign stating 'Village Hall: no parking beyond this point' will be erected at the end of the car park.

10 AOB.

- 10.1 Repairs to the north and south tracks. A working party, to be organised and coordinated by BP, will be formed to fill the pot holes, using the planings piled beside the south track. No major resurfacing will be carried out using type 1, and it is accepted that to replenish stocks further planings will need to be purchased before next winter.
- 10.2 IE's suggestion that he put out an email containing the Red Lion's Xmas party menu to see if there is any interest in having a village 'party' in the pub was well received.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, 9 April 2019, at 7.30 pm.