

BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

7.30 pm, Tuesday, 9 July 2019

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

Apologies for absence: Rick Blackman, Katie Bennett, Fred Gregory, Ben Pullen, Tom Sisley.

1 Minutes of January meeting and the extra-ordinary meeting following the AGM.

1.1 The minutes were passed.

2 Matters arising from the January meeting, and the AGM.

2.1 Village sign. No further actions yet taken.

2.2 Painting of the roof. At the AGM, Chris Moore offered (in an informal conversation with RB) to have a look at the quote we have accepted from Kevin Walters, because it is an area in which he has expertise. Following receipt of a copy of the quote, amongst other minor matters, he warned that as the roof is built without obvious strength for being walked on, we should request sight of a Risk Assessment since we have a duty of care to ensure we are not authorizing hazardous works that might cause injury.

2.3 Electrical work. An electrician has been engaged to carry changes to the supply to the wall heaters and to the Fire Exit signs.

2.4 Mowing of the Lees. The farmer contracted to mow the less has come whenever requested and the lees is beginning to improve in appearance. Its state will continue to be monitored. SB asked if a cut could be arranged for the week before the 10k Run.

2.5 The Triangle. The bridle way sign has been re-erected (presumably by KCC - Highways or Footpaths) but at a new location (by the hedge at the start of the track to Badlesmere church) leaving the 'Triangle' empty of structures. This has provoked residents into planting a small sapling in the centre of the 'Triangle' (where, it has been stated by a long term resident, many years ago a mature tree existed) and the beginnings of a hedge around its edge. To protect these orange netting on metal stakes has been added. The hedge has not taken. It was decided to leave the orange netting in place as it has successfully protected the 'Triangle' from lorries. Concern was expressed that 'Triangle' looked untidy with both the temporary orange netting and the growth of weeds, notably nettles. It was pointed out that a KCC work team was recently seen strimming the verge along the edge of the lees that borders the A251, and it was a pity they didn't do the 'Triangle' (probably due to the presence of the netting). CK offered to trim the parts of the verge missed by the KCC team, and SE would look at the 'Triangle'. The addition of a post at the apex of the 'Triangle' is still outstanding.

2.6 The sign to declare 'Village Hall Parking – no parking beyond this point' has yet to be ordered.

2.7 A village 'party' in the Red Lion will be reconsidered for next January.

3 Accounts.

3.1 The bank balances as at 9 July: the current account is £8484.86 and the Business Reserve account £3851.50. Some cheques have yet to be presented and most of the prizes for the 100 Club not yet decided. The cost of the painter and electrician will make a serious dent in these reserves in due course.

3.2 The 100 Club winners to date are:-

January: £15 Lorraine Blackman £10 Rick Blackman

February: £15 Jean Treasure £10 Fergus Gregory

March: £15 Athelstan Moore £10 Julia Gregory

April: £15 Eva Winter £10 Tom Gregory

May: £15 Milly Farley £10 Rachel Sisley

June: £15 Bert Garlinge £10 Phil Thompson

July: £15 Asa Euridge £10 Dave Wilkinson

It may be felicitous to point out that the draw is always performed by someone unconnected with its organisation, and often publicly, for example, in the Red Lion.

4 Benches in or by the Lees – policy decision.

4.1 Prompted by a request received via the Parish Council that a commemorative bench be placed at Badlesmere Lees the committee debated a suitable policy for such requests. The following aspects were agreed upon:

a) That each and every request be considered separately upon its merits, including, but not limited to, the need for the person(s) or occasion which the bench commemorates to have had a long and/or close association with the village.

b) That the location be determined by the committee (currently limited to in front of Leavemere bungalows or the village hall), and any subsequent relocation.

c) That the design and appearance fits with the committee's idea of what is aesthetically pleasing, durable, safe (from suffering damage or causing injury) and difficult to steal (e.g. being fixed to a concrete base).

d) That the bench can be added to the village hall's insurance policy (public liability) without extra cost.

d) That the cost of its upkeep is not the responsibility of the committee, and the committee can request or effect its removal on such grounds as it being unsafe.

e) That the Lees Court Estate agrees to the above and its addition to the Lees.

5 Hiring of the hall by the Parish Council for the purposes of holding 'Surgeries'.

5.1 IE has received a hall booking request from the Parish Council (evening of the 4th Monday in alternate months beginning October 2019). The committee confirmed that there would be no charge as it fitted the policy that occasions with no entry fee, that are non-profit-making, open to all residents and beneficial to the community should not incur a fee.

6 Badlesmere 10K Run.

6.1 SB gave an update on the preparations for holding the 10k Run in September. The route has been finalised, and subjected to satellite navigation to determine its length. The latter will be confirmed by wheel and made 10 km as accurately as possible by adjusting the last part of the route on the Lees. Flyers have been produced and given

to local stores, and handed out at similar runs in Kent. Medals (SB has designed a suitable logo which includes rabbits/hares, a tree and the beacon) and prizes have been sourced, together with the race numbers that the runners must wear.

- 6.2 90 runners have currently signed up, and 160 are hoped for. Some concern (RB via IE) was expressed that it is the same weekend as Faversham's Hop Festival. It was confirmed that the run will take place whatever the weather.
- 6.3 IE has a list of volunteers (to act as course marshals and help out at the Start/End) but will need to recruit more (not a worry – yet), and will continue to liaise with the Phil Scutt and Lees Court Estate. Lady Sondes will be asked if she would like to be present at the start as well as the end. A briefing for volunteers will take place at 10.00 in the village hall the Sunday before, i.e. 25 August, and all marshals must be at the village hall by 09.00 on the day (the race starts at 10.00). Those with key roles should be at the village hall by 07.30.
- 6.4 SE will be in charge of the village hall, its facilities, and the refreshments to be provided.
- 6.5 DA will be manning his PA system and taking photos; a flickr account has already been set up. DA suggested that SB take some video shots of the course (hand-held while running), and he would interview SB (and possibly other runners) to create a short clip that could then be placed on YouTube to which other social media could be linked. DA requested map(s) of the course as pdfs (IE to supply). SB will have a portable PA system for taking to the Start.
- 6.5 Yet to chosen/asked are: a volunteer to drive (and supply) a 4x4 lead vehicle (to precede the runners), and a tail-end cyclist (to ensure all who start complete the run, or are rescued). Runners are expected to complete the route in 35 to 90 minutes.
- 6.6 Concurrently with the 10k Run, a 1500m run around the Lees been organised in conjunction with Sheldwich School. This will lighten the occasion making it more of a 'fun' event.

9 AOB.

There were no items of AOB.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

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