

BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 10 May 2022

Those present: Ian Earl (Chair); Sue Earl (Secretary); Rick Blackman (Treasurer), Steve Burt, Gareth Fulton, Fred Gregory, Ben Pullen, Tom Sisley.

Apologies for absence: Dave Austin, Charlie Kirby, Katie Potter.

The meeting followed the AGM wherein the committee had duly resigned and were re-elected en masse and was initially solely concerned with the election of officers and the admission of a new member. However, numerous other matters did also arise.

1 Election of Officers.

- 1.1 Chairman: IE announced he did not wish to stand for re-election as Chairman, and listed the roles he currently carries out. Following a long discussion he was persuaded to remain as Chairman with SB and CM taking over as joint Hall Managers. SB would be mostly concerned with the day to day running and needs of the hall (maintenance and janitorial duties) whereas CM would focus on grant applications and overseeing the major projects. IE will retain his current role of managing hall bookings. IE to ask DA if he is willing to take on the guardianship of the defibrillator.
- 1.2 Treasurer: RB (proposer IE, seconder BP; acceptance unanimous).
- 1.3 Secretary: SE (proposer RB, seconder SB; acceptance unanimous).

2 Admission (co-opting) of Chris Moore onto the committee.

- 2.1 In April IE sought the views of the committee as to the merits of having CM join. All were in favour. This is the first meeting whereby his joining could be ratified. Formally, FG proposed and IE seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

3 AOB (mostly stemming from the above discussions and their ramifications)

- 3.1 TS suggested an electronic key safe be installed to save the repeated issuing of keys to hirers. The access code could be changed regularly to ensure security is maintained and only those who need to know be informed accordingly.
- 3.2 Emily Moore [who was welcomed to stay after the AGM] suggested the booking system could be more automatic, such as linked to the website. IE had his doubts but encouraged EM to speak with DA who maintains the website.
- 3.3 The possibility of installing wifi in the hall was raised. It was stated that contracts as low as £20 per month are available. IE welcomed the idea of there being wifi but said no hirer had ever requested wifi nor inquired upon its availability and thought that £20 per month would be too large a drain on finances once the 'Covid' moneys were spent and normal income/expenditure resumed.
- 3.4 A discussion on the ownership and status of the Lees took place. IE recounted his understanding of the history of its acquisition by Lees Court Estate (there are documents pertaining to this in the Committee's Archives), and stated it is within the Conservation Area of Badlesmere Lees and is currently listed as Open Access. He said that within the archives are minutes of meetings and a letter to villagers, dated December 1979, from the 'Chairman of the Lees Committee' (so it was already in

existence) detailing the way in which the village, i.e. the committee, would look after the Lees. No one present knew whether the deeds of their properties included specified rights or reference to any Commoners' Rights relevant to their bordering the Lees. IE also stated his wish to register the Lees as a Village Green not least to guarantee it could not be developed in any way. CM agreed to look into it. IE will provide CM with a booklet on legal aspects of village green registration.

- 3.5 Village Sign. The latest version of the design, which will be in the form of a silhouette, was agreed by the committee. FG will now submit this to three selected manufacturers for a final quote. Because the cost could exceed the current funds available in the Preservation Committee's accounts, it was agreed that any shortfall could be made up from the Hall's accounts and repaid at a later date so to prevent any delay in the project coming to fruition. It is highly desirable that the sign be erected in this Jubilee year. Any profits from this year's 10K Run have already been assigned to the funding of the sign. The committee also agreed that since the village hall is not just an amenity for the village but also part of the identity of the village some funds could be directed from the hall's account to help fund the sign. After much deliberation a majority accepted the sum of £1500 as suitable (proposed by SB, seconded by RB).
- 3.6 It was agreed that a Lees clear-up was long overdue, especially of the debris caused by the winter storms. Chainsaws will be needed. The date Monday 23rd June at 6pm was set.
- 3.7 In answer to a question from GF, IE confirmed that the next mowing would be of the whole grassed area of the Lees, and was scheduled for 30 May.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 12 July, at 7.30 pm, in the village hall.