



Friston Parish Council

Minutes of the Village Hall Committee meeting 31st August 2022 held in Friston Village Hall.

Present: Cllr M Caplin, Cllr S Jackson, Cllr P Carlaw, J Burch and E Thomas
In attendance: Phillippa Welby (Clerk).

Minutes

V1/22 To elect a Chair – Cllr Jackson was nominated as Chair and duly voted in until May 2023.

V2/22 Apologies for absence – M Szpak.

V3/22 Declaration of Interest & Requests for Dispensations - None

V4/22 Minutes of the previous meeting: This is the first meeting of the Village Hall Committee

V5/22 Open Forum – There were no members of the public present at this meeting

V6/22 To elect a Vice Chair – Elizabeth Thomas was nominated as Vice Chair and duly voted in until May 2023.

V7/22 Terms of Reference – The Clerk circulated the terms of reference and the committee accepted these.

V8/22 Ownership of the Hall – The Village Hall was originally owned by the Wentworth family and managed by the Village Hall Management Committee Charity with the Parish Council acting as custodian trustees. The Wentworth family offered the freehold of the Hall to the Parish Council (with some conditions i.e. the Hall must always be used as a Village Hall or it must be handed back to the Wentworth family) which was accepted. The Village Hall Management Committee Charity was wound up with the remaining funds given to the Parish Council and held in a ring fenced fund. The Village Hall is now owned and operated by the Parish Council. The Village Hall Committee oversees the day to day running of the Hall with any major decisions made by the Parish Council. The Village Green is an entirely separate entity owned by Blackheath Estates and rented by the Parish Council on seven-year lease. Events at the Hall can use the Green for parking provided they don't drive across the football pitch and that vehicles are parked close to the road when the Green is wet. Parking on the Green must always be cleared with the Parish Council first.

V9/22 Current Outgoings – The Committee looked at the utilities outgoings and it was agreed that the Clerk should try and get a smart meter installed so electricity usage can be monitored and that she would try Plusnet when the WIFI contract was up with BT.

V10/22 Immediate Jobs:

-MC agreed to ask his grandson (plumber) to look at the men's urinals as they had stopped flushing. ET gave him the number of the plumber that had been used by the VHMC in the past.

-PC has taken on the task of getting quotes for blinds for the Hall. The Committee came up with two local contractors and one national one who made made to measure blinds.

-ET had taken all the historical photos and certificates from the Hall. The certificates are in a folder in the cupboard in the Hall as it was decided they were dated and not required on the walls anymore. Those photos that could be removed safely from the frames have been stored in a folder in the cupboard, those that were too fragile to remove have been stored in the cupboard untouched. A graphic designer has scanned in all the photos and produced three A1 sized montages. These could be hung on the walls in the Hall enabling people to still enjoy the photos without the originals becoming anymore damaged or faded. It would also keep the walls relatively uncluttered. The Committee agreed to ET getting a final price for the boards.

The Clerk will contact the company who was offering the energy grant to see if this was an annual award.



Friston Parish Council

V11/22 Marketing ideas – ET had contacted an events planner who had agreed to dress the Hall for a wedding or a party and then photos that also included the Church and Green could be taken to market the hall as a venue for a wedding reception or christening party as well as standalone parties. It was hoped that in return for credits on the website that the planner may do this free of charge. ET will continue her marketing project and get final costings for the committee. She also agreed to ask for suggestions from residents of groups they would attend if available at the Village Hall. The Committee can then look for people to provide them.

JB had received a request for a weekly dog training group at the Hall but it was decided that the possible noise was unfair on residents who lived close to the Hall and that there was a worry of the wooden floor becoming damaged. JB to contact dog trainer.

V12/22 Looking ahead – It was suggested that the lighting and heating in the Hall should be investigated to make them more efficient. PC suggested that the lightbulbs could be changed in the strip lighting to make them more efficient as a start and then look into longer term changes in lighting to make it more flexible and atmospheric for events as well as energy efficient. He also agreed to contact a company to conduct a survey of the heating to see what improvements could be made there.

It was also agreed to look into the suggestion of Swift boxes and possibly bat boxes for the outside of the Hall. Clerk to contact member of the public who suggested this.

V13/22 Correspondence – The grant application was dealt with under immediate jobs

V14/22 Date of Next Committee Meeting – 7th November at 7pm