

ICKLETON VILLAGE HALL

Special Committee Meeting held on Monday 03 March 2014 at 8.00 pm in the Meeting Room, Ickleton Village Hall

Present: Pam Fearn (Chairman), Neil & Rosemary McKillen, Lewis Duke, Steve Jenkins, Roy Smith (Hon. Treasurer), David Mathias, Linda Hynard, Jocelyn Flitton (Minute Secretary) and David & Jean Whitaker (Booking Secretaries)

016/14 Apologies: David Bushell, John Holt, Hedley Igglesden, Martin Northfield

017/14 Gordon Woolhouse: The Chairman paid tribute to Gordon Woolhouse who sadly died on 5th February 2014. The village owes a tremendous thanks to him (and Norma Shepperd) for ensuring we have such a splendid hall, which is much admired by many. He will be greatly missed.

It was agreed that a suitable memorial should be put in or on the hall. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

018/14 Hire Rates: The Hon. Treasurer produced and explained the following information:

Review of Village Hall Fees @ 1/4/14

We left our letting fees unchanged last year but the bad news is that our costs haven't remained the same.

Our 3 biggest items of expenditure are

1. Gas charges. The price per unit increased by 9% from 6/9/13.
2. Caretaker's stipend. Last year saw these increased but I think we would all agree that we get superb value for money here.
3. Repairs and maintenance. Up by 95% on the previous year. This is only going to get worse unfortunately due to the age of the building and the amount of use it gets. We already know that we have had to spend money on the car park in the current year.

Even worse, we are about to get hit with charges for emptying our wheelie bins for the first time and following the death of Ron Coulson we are having to pay the going rate for work done on our hedges.

As I said at the beginning, we left our letting fees unchanged last year and we can't afford to do the same this year.

Historically, regular users bring in about ¾ of our annual letting income, with private hire bringing in the other ¼

Amid all the doom and gloom about increased costs there is some good news as the letting income for last year (to 30/9/13) was up by just short of £1,000 on that for the previous year (y/e 30/9/12).

More bad news isn't far behind however as the letting income, just from private hire (i.e. the final ¼) currently anticipated for the 2nd half of the current year looks to about £2,000 short on the same period for last year.

Seems to be not much point in increasing the private hire charges when the bookings seem to be so difficult to come by at present.

This only leaves our regular user groups I'm afraid so I would like to recommend that we increase their charges from £16 per meeting room session to £18 and from £22 per sports hall session to £25. I would anticipate this bringing in another £1,500 per year.

The special rate of £15 for the bowls club needs to be added.

One minor amendment to the charges for the changing rooms is a recommendation to standardise the charges for the Ickleton Football and Cricket teams at £25.

Finally, one piece of tidying up. The current rates shown for one-off events for Ickleton Parish Organisations and Charities needs to be brought into line with the new rates for regular user groups i.e. for the meeting room these will reduce from £20 to £18 and for the sports hall these will reduce from £37 to £25.

The Treasurer's proposals were put before the Trustees and the changes were agreed unanimously.

019/14 Any Other Business:

Ickleton Cricket Club is hoping to start a Youth cricket team. Training will be held on a Thursday evening either in the hall or on the Recreation Ground. It was agreed they could use the hall for ¾ hour free of charge for a few weeks until the number interested in playing is known.

There is the possibility of a children's tennis club being formed in which case they should both be treated the same.

Change of Trust Deed (005/14) – Linda Hynard has sent out an e-mail to everyone explaining the situation with the solicitors and costs involved approx. £500 + VAT and disbursements. She proposed that the Village Hall should bear the costs and not the Parish Council. All agreed this.

020/14 Date of next meeting – 28 April 2014 at 8pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Chairman

Date