

Royal Four Towns Hall Association

Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May, 2017

Those Present : Nick Bass(Chairperson), John Thomson(Treasurer), Margaret Byrne, Ellen Hyslop, Jim Burns, Jeanette Carmichael(50/50 Club), Teresa McColm(Bookings secretary), Sarah Cowan, Stuart Robison, Gill Frazer, Lorna Bell(Secretary).

Apologies : Graham Anderson(Property Convenor)

Minutes from Previous Meeting : these were accepted as a true and accurate account .

Matters Arising : Car Park – Jim Burns presented his report stating that the deeds did not give any formal written confirmation of what use could be made of the 'Green'. Past minutes and discussions with committee members of the time also did not give any idea of whether there were any restrictions imposed on the use of the 'Green'. Nick Bass reported that discussions with Anne Fairn revealed that she thought the hall had been passed to the Community Council in the first instance, the committee therefore concluded that Graham Anderson be asked to investigate the Community Council minutes to see what information could be found.

Fund Raising – Sarah Cowan reported on a race night held in Lochmaben which was not well attended and queried whether it would be a good project to pursue. Sarah congratulated Margaret Byrne on the success of the hall dance.

Hall Dance – Margaret Byrne reported a good attendance, the dance raised £442 Margaret explained this was due to the band playing for free due to the band being unable to keep their commitment to play at the last dance.

Soup and Sweet Lunch - Margaret Byrne informed the committee that the Easter Sunday lunch was enjoyed by all who attended, numbers could have been better with only 23 people attending, however the event raised £131. Sarah Cowan said she had only heard positive comments and suggested that a different day might have seen more people able to attend.

Craft Fair – 19th November – Stuart Robison reported that 67 people have downloaded application details from Facebook but so far none of these had applied. Out of previous contacts four applications have been received, reminders to be sent out with a closing date for applications to be set at 30th June. Sarah Cowan suggested having 'sand art' or some form of activity for children. It was suggested that if not sufficient crafters spaces could be opened up for a table top sale.

Meeting Procedures – Nick Bass thanked those who had produced reports prior to the meeting and felt that this was helpful to the running of the meeting if committee members had the chance to view these reports before a meeting.

Treasurers Report :

Deposit Accounts	£15,871.09
Current Account	£ 2,586.78
Cash in Hand	£ 220.91

Treasurer John Thomson updated the committee with details of the **hall insurance**, a revaluation by the insurance company costing £120 resulted in a reduction in the value of the rebuild to £452,000 giving a refund of £48.25 to the premium. A 25% 'uplift' means the hall is now insured for £565,625 but for a less premium for 5 years. A further refund of £11.17 occurred as a result of the assessors learning that the second outbuilding actually belonged to Scottish Power and not the hall. John also informed the committee that the lease for the site of the **electricity sub station** ends in 2018 therefore re-negotiations will need to start soon.

Electricity contract has been renewed with Opus as it remains the most competitive. **Rates valuation** for the hall came in at £4825 and **water charges** at £2248.50 but as the association is a registered charity we are exempt from paying these charges.

Feed in Tariff payments have now resumed after some queries were sorted. John informed the committee that OSCR require a copy of the 2015/16 accounts which he has now collated and has completed a required report which he offered to the committee for comments. Finally, John proposed a change to the constitution , item 7a regarding signatories on the account, this to be dealt with at the AGM.

Property Convenors Report – being absent from the meeting Graham Anderson had prepared a written report which contained the following points

- With help from Angie half the War Memorial area has been weeded.
- Beds on the village green have been weeded and cut back with the help of Freda, Stuart, Kath, Teresa, Stuart Bowe, special thanks to Peter who supplied a tractor and trailer to remove the rubbish.
- Fire alarm tests been completed for April and May.
- Weed killer sprayed around the hall.
- Area round the new postbox has been painted.
- Nut on leaking radiator been tightened.

Gill Fraser as a representative of the Gala committee was asked if they would store the case containing a scrapbook in their allocated cupboard, Gill could see no reason why not.

Hall Bookings – Teresa McColm gave an overview of hall bookings and presented a copy of the updated housekeeping rules available to people who book the hall. Sarah Cowan asked about a child's birthday party that was unable to be held at the hall. Teresa explained that the party would have involved a large bouncy castle and after consulting with Nick Bass it was decided to refuse the booking on safety grounds. Sarah felt this to be unfortunate when as a committee we are trying to promote hall bookings.

Garden Tidy and Litter Pick – John Thomson had attended this Community Council event where fifteen volunteers attended

Position of Chairperson –with Nick Bass due to stand down as Chairperson at next AGM the committee need to find a replacement, this position has arisen as the Vice Chairperson is moving away from the village, it was suggested to make an appeal on Facebook.

A.O.B.

No objections to Graham Anderson borrowing tables and urn.

Lorna Bell informed the committee that she wishes to resign as Secretary at the next AGM although is willing to stay on the committee.

Date of Next Meeting – Monday 3rd July, 2017, 7.30pm.