

Minutes of the King Edward's Hall committee meeting held on 18th January 2024

Present:

Andy Page, Charlotte Strutt, Neil Carpenter, Barry Whitlock, Margaret Down and Vian Cameron.

Charlotte welcomed Pat Barretto and David King to the meeting.

1) Apologies for absence: Julie Neilson, Fiona Collier, Karen James and Victoria Davidson.

2) Declarations of interest: Margaret, as a parish councillor, declared an interest in item 10.

3) Pickleball

Pat Barretto described the game of pickleball and wished to run weekly pickleball sessions in the hall. The committee welcomed this and agreed to waive the booking fee for the first month. Pat agreed to have oversight of the bookings, the hall's keys, and the sessions and participants.

At this point Pat left the meeting.

4) Matters arising:

Fiona was exploring the possibility with the parish council of moving the fire assembly point to the other side of the road outside the school or in the school grounds.

5) Chairman's report:

The Christmas Pantomime was a great success – a sell-out! For next year consideration will be given to the hall's capacity, ticket prices and refreshments.

On several occasions the hall lights and heating had been left on into the late evening when the hall was unoccupied; a timer may have to be installed to prevent this. Victoria has been asked to remind users from the school to ensure lights and heating are turned off when locking up.

Following investigation it had been agreed that the hall did not require a television licence.

Twinkletoes playgroup – the school is happy for Twinkletoes to make use of some of their booked hours. Any monies so raised will be donated to the PTA. Neil to write to the school to confirm that the school's insurance will cover any eventualities relating to this (as Twinkletoes will be using the hall within the school's booked time).

Darren Klatt's exercise class this evening attracted a good turnout. Use of the hall's speakers for the exercise class has been offered to Darren.

6) Treasurer's report:

Charlotte reported the bank balance at December 31st stood at £42,063.26 plus £465.20 in petty cash. A donation of £400 has been received toward the restoration of the Singer painting plus another of £200 for another project. £1048 was received via the feed-in tariff from the solar panels. The hand dryers have been installed in the toilets at a cost of £1,396 which was met by a grant from the Fête Community Fund (as requested the hall will be happy to lend tables for the 2024 fête). £117 has been received for hall hire (badminton) and £10 (hire of crockery).

Having looked at other electricity providers Charlotte found the next cheapest electricity provider worked out at £30 p.a. less than we pay at present therefore it was decided to stay with our current provider (SSE).

Profit from the pantomime amounted to £676.11 - thanks were given to Margaret for her work providing the catering. The Stripe credit card unit worked well, and costs for this are low. A portion of the cash in the current account will be transferred to a suitable interest-bearing account.

7) Hall Maintenance:

Vian has checked the operation of the fire alarms which are working fine. The steps down to the boiler room need addressing as they are uneven and require tread-edge indication; further a hand rail needs to be installed. The railings at the top of the stairwell are too far apart. It was agreed that a sum of £500 be earmarked for Andy and Vian to carry out these improvements.

Andy has installed a second basin for the kitchen away from the food preparation area in order to meet current health and safety requirements, and Steve Russell installed a dryer for the new sink. Steve Russell also installed three LED strip lights in the undercroft and upgraded wall sockets there to have USB outputs to assist anyone using this area. The undercroft sump pump is not installed to date – Andy to get quotes to install two sump pumps (one in the undercroft and a second in the boiler room). Andy would like the mound of rubble and grass behind the hall removed; David King knew of somebody who may take the rubble, and, with a little help, Margaret will deal with the leaves.

8) Health and Safety:

Vian raised concern regarding the orange bunting adjacent to the ditch; if this is to be a permanent fixture ideally this should be replaced by Harris fencing.

9) Forthcoming events and bookings:

Regular bookings continue. Forest Forge may stage plays during the year. Charlotte will find out the cost of showing cinema films in the hall.

10) KEH Emergency Plan - update:

Andy to obtain updated quotes for upgrading the building behind the hall to become ready to house the generator as the first stage of providing the restoration centre. This was agreed following a discussion. David King agreed to work with the committee on this project.

- 11) Website update:
The website is running well – Chris Hammond continues to look after the website.
- 12) KEH Village survey:
Discussed. Once the format has been agreed the survey will be distributed in advance of the AGM. The parish council may become involved.
- 13) AGM briefing:
Discussed. It was decided to hold the AGM on Friday 22nd March, subject to confirmation.
- 14) Any other business:
Nil.
- 15) Date and time of the next meeting: Thursday 22nd February 2024 at 7.00pm at KEH.

The meeting closed at 2103.