

**MINUTES OF THE WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM IN WICKHAMBREAUX
VILLAGE HALL, THE STREET, WICKHAMBREAUX**

Present: Robin Treacher

Patrick Duffy

Karen Newton-Anker

Emma Denning

Chenice Howard-Sparkes, Secretary

Caroline Rees, Parish Councillor

1. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Lucy Rushbrooke (Holiday), Tracy Harris (Family Commitments) and Keith Walsh (Other Commitments).

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 06 February 2023

The minutes of the Meeting held on 06 February 2023 were unanimously agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Item 04 (Wildflower Meadow) – Chenice reported on behalf of Lucy that the scarification has been completed. Patrick advised that the seeding will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

Item 04 (Speedwatch) – Robin reported that he met with representatives from Ickham Parish Council to discuss setting up a joint Speedwatch group with Wickhambreaux Parish Council. Ickham Parish Council is supportive of setting up a joint group and have a number of volunteers already. All equipment will be funded jointly between both councils should the group be successful, and Littlebourne Parish Council has agreed to temporarily loan their equipment while the group establishes itself. Chenice reported that she has contacted Kent Police Community Speedwatch to set up a joint Speedwatch group. The first stage is for Kent Police to assess both Wickhambreaux and Ickham for suitable sites to hold sessions.

Item 04 (School Inventory) – Chenice confirmed the School has sent their inventory list, which was circulated to committee members prior to the meeting.

4. Matters for Discussion:

National Lottery Funding Application

Robin agreed to speak to Linda to obtain an update on the funding application.

Small Capital Works

The Parish Council agreed to underwrite a substantial portion of the cost associated with the village hall toilet roof repairs, up to a maximum of £15,000, at its meeting on 20 February 2023. At its meeting on 21 March 2023, the Parish Council had no objections to a payment in lieu to avoid any delays in instructing a contractor.

Caroline reported that she attended a site meeting with Patrick to discuss potential locations for the Playing Field Committee shed. During discussions, a number of ideas were raised with regards to shed locations and other alterations to better utilise the space inside and outside the village hall. One ideal location identified was the underused strip of land to the side of the village hall, which could be accessed via a new gate to create a side entrance.

Caroline proposed some alterations to the initial planned works, in particular the provision of disabled toilet with baby changing unit if not already considered. A surveyor will need to assess the available space to determine whether the scheme is feasible. Caroline proposed potentially knocking down the 'add on' wooden storage cupboard (previously used by the school but now in poor state of repair) which would create additional space for external and internal alterations.

Internal alterations could include knocking through the kitchen into the current toilet space to create a bar area, and the creation a small separate meeting room for use by community groups, etc. The provision of disabled toilets may be a legal requirement given the extent of the refurbishment works required.

Patrick reported that he has spoken with the surveyor in advance of their site visit on 29 March 2023, which Caroline will be attending. The surveyor has indicated it is possible to put a disabled toilet as part of the first proposals. Patrick has asked the surveyor to create two proposals; one for the original toilet refurbishment and the second to incorporate the potential internal and external alterations raised by Caroline. Caroline agreed to discuss these with the surveyor at the site meeting.

Robin reported on behalf of Lucy that she has made enquiries with the Four Villages Post Office and Shop Fund to submit an application towards the cost of the project. Robin agreed to liaise with Lucy on her return from holiday to ensure an application is submitted before the deadline.

Events Sub-Committee, Bookings and Hall Activity

Chenice reported on behalf of Lucy that she has received feedback from the Horticultural Club, which had a very successful initial meeting attended by approximately 25-30 people. The organisers are in the process of putting together a possible calendar of events. The next coffee morning is scheduled for 15 April 2023, which has been advertised in Church and Village and on the Parish Council's website.

King Charles III's Coronation

Chenice reported that the BBC is waiving the need to have a TV license to show the King's Coronation for the weekend 06-07 May 2023.

Patrick reported that he contacted St Andrew's Church to enquire whether they are holding any specific celebration event. Peter Terrill confirmed that the Church is not holding anything on the day of the Coronation itself, but the St Bride's Choir based in Fleet Street in London will be performing at St Andrew's Church on 29 April 2023 for a Coronation Celebration concert. Members of the Church have indicated they would be willing to assist the hall with their event showing the Coronation. Lucy suggested prior to the meeting that the School be invited to participate in a design a crown competition, which was unanimously agreed. Another meeting will be organised in due course to finalise the itinerary and planning for the day.

Neighbour Request for Scaffolding Access

In the absence of Keith, Patrick agreed to liaise with the neighbour and contractors to establish the type of scaffolding and how long the scaffolding will need to be in place for.

5. Financial Report

The Village Hall Committee's bank balance is healthy, with a balance of £17,431.84 as at 21 March 2023.

Patrick reported that following price increases from Utility Warehouse, the Committee has signed a three year fixed contract with British Gas following investigations into the energy market.

6. Any Other Business:

None.

7. Date of next meeting:

The next Committee meeting will be arranged for April 2023, date to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8.22pm