

DOLTON & DOWLAND VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE
Registered Charity No. 300816

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29th APRIL 2009
at 7.30 p.m.

1. Present: Mrs S. Jury, Chairman, Mrs J. Sidey, Secretary, Mr N. Wood, Mr J.Lock, Mr.T.Jones, Mrs S. McCulloch, Mrs S. Turner, Mr C. Burnage, Adam Hughes.

Apologies: Mrs R.Lock, Mrs A.Chivers, Mrs K Herniman and Mr R Dunn.

2. Approval of Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2009 having been duly circulated were signed by the Chairman as a correct record on the proposal of Mr T. Jones, seconded by Mr. J Lock.

3. Treasurer's Report. In the Treasurer's absence, copies of the monthly accounts were circulated and showed a balance of £2597.82 in the current account, £724.58 in the savings account, cash in hand of £67.02 and a restoration fund balance of £8562.24. The Easter Fair made a profit of £414.26. Cheques issued since last meeting were for Insurance £716.45. Caretaker £242.99 (included window cleaning £16 and Tool £1.99) Oil £439.95.

4. Little Bay. The Chairman said that she had spoken briefly with Mr Parker and had advised him that she intended, following a discussion by the Committee and the advice given by the Charity Commission, to take a vote before Mr Parker spent further moneys, on whether the Committee wished for the matter to proceed. The Secretary reported that she had telephoned the Charity Commission as instructed and they had told her **any decision in the matter could be taken locally by the Committee although they must be careful to consider any proposal only if it would be of benefit to the Village Hall in the long term. If they have any doubts they do not need to consider the matter.** Mr. Wood felt that the amount of £2,000 suggested as a premium was insufficient and that should the matter go forward, then the Committee must have an independent valuation carried out at Mr Parker's expense on the value of Little Bay as it is, and the value with the proposed easement across Village Hall land. The difference in value should be the starting point in setting the amount of any premium. It was pointed out that Mr Parker had not yet shown the Committee any drawings although he had mentioned sending a drawing to TDC. Mr Dunn had sent a note with his apology for absence stating his views since he will be unable to put his point in person at this meeting (in Little Bay file). It was mentioned that Mr and Mrs Parker have been good neighbours to us and also that the Village Hall Committee have been good neighbours to them in permitting them to park on Village Hall property up until now. Most committee members' reservations come for the future, as it is unknown who will be the occupants of Little Bay in the long term – something over which the Committee will never have any control - subsequent owners of the property may not be such good neighbours as Mr and Mrs Parker causing all sorts of unforeseen problems to arise. Mr Burnage commented that as a Parish Councillor as well as a Committee member, with the ongoing revision of the Parish Plan it was not yet possible to ascertain how future village requirements would affect the Hall and that aspect needed to be considered too.

Mr Burnage made the proposal “ that this Village Hall Committee do not enter into the proposed easement with the owner of Little Bay at this time.” The proposal was seconded by Mr. Lock and on a show of hands was carried unanimously.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- a) Storeroom Spring Clean. The spring clean had been carried out, extraneous items surplus to needs disposed of, extra shelving supplied and items replaced in their designated areas resulting in great improvement in space. Everyone who assisted in any way was thanked for their efforts. Pre-school ride-on items were still on the stage in the main hall and it was agreed that these should now be removed from the stage as soon as possible.
- b) Cleaning of Chair Seats. To date this work has not been carried out and the Secretary was asked to contact Emma Simmons to ensure that it is done as soon as possible.
- c) Kitchen Refurbishment. Nothing to report at this time regarding proposed changes. The Chairman said that Mrs Lock, as our Ward Councillor had said an application to TDC for a grant from her local funds towards the dishwasher should be made. The Chairman would find out the time frame from Mrs Lock so that an application could be submitted.
- d) Framing of Photographs. Mr Lock said that Mrs Lock had not had time to investigate this further but hoped some progress would be made before the next meeting.
- e) Boiler replacement. This work is now completed and the new boiler is in use. The Caretaker has asked for some shelving for storage purposes in the boiler room. It was agreed that this could be done at the same time as the new shelves for the storage room as long as the caretaker let us know his requirements.

6. Fund Raising

- i. The Easter Fair had been a success. The Cafe made £157.20.; the Raffle raised £128.; Tombola £82.80; Books £20.86; Cakes and Sweets £47.35, and Hire of Table had raised £78, totalling £514.21. Expenses amounted to £99.95, giving a profit of £414.26.
- ii. Tony Beard evening on 2nd May. So far only 7 tickets from BG Electrical and 12 from Church Street Stores have been sold. The Chairman has sold 3. There was discussion about whether the event should continue or be cancelled due to lack of interest and it was decided that Mr Wood would discuss with Mr. Beard, and a final decision made at 5 p.m. on Thursday by The Chairman, Secretary and Mr Wood to allow time for appropriate quantity of food and drink to be obtained for the bar and buffet. If the event proceeds good raffle prizes will be needed; help to prepare the hall will be required and everyone available should be at the hall between 2.30 and 3 p.m. Mrs Lock will do the raffle, Mr Dunn to be barman. Someone will need to check tickets at the door (Mrs McCulloch) and Mrs Jury and Mrs Turner may require help in the kitchen. Chairman will ask for other assistance as required.

iii. August Bank Holiday event. This event will not now go ahead due to unforeseen circumstances although the Scarecrow competition and a Hanging Basket competition (both to take place on the same date) to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

a) The Secretary read out a letter of resignation, due to changes in her personal circumstances, from Mrs Chivers as from the AGM. Mrs Chivers having been a Committee Member for probably 20 years, her presence would be greatly missed at Committee meetings although it is hoped she will continue with her many fund raising activities. The Secretary was asked to write thanking her for all her efforts over those years.

b) The Chairman had received various correspondence from the CCD which was briefly gone through, including a Food Handling Hygiene Course, rising water charges, Beaford Arts etc. and the Chairman said that CCD were now organising information specific to Village Halls which would cost an extra £5. per annum. It was agreed that this should be taken up.

c) The Caretaker had spoken to the Chairman about window cleaning. Apparently the window cleaner comes every six weeks or so and costs £16. In the new job description it is listed to be done every three months and the caretaker thinks this is too long between cleanings. After a short discussion it was agreed that after the next cleaning the window cleaner should be asked to leave it until 12 weeks so that the difference can be noted and it can be ascertained whether it is necessary to clean the windows six weekly or 12 weekly.

d) Hire charges for the Hall to be an agenda item for next meeting.

e) Annual General Meeting. There was a brief discussion on the format of the AGM, timing for Notices, etc. Date of AGM to be Wednesday, 27th May 2009 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

8. Date of next meeting. Wednesday 27th May 2009, immediately following the AGM.

Signed.....

Dated.....