

BADLESMERE LEES AND HALL COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, 14 April 2020

Those present: no one; apologies for absence: everyone; explanation below.

Committee: Ian Earl (Chair), Sue Earl (Secretary), Rick Blackman (Treasurer), Dave Austin, Steve Burt, Fred Gregory, Charlie Kirby, Katie Potter, Ben Pullen, Tom Sisley.

This meeting was not held due to the government's 'Lock down' of the country on account of the **Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic**. The committee agreed not to hold the meeting virtually, using Zoom or some other video conferencing software, but to allow discussions and decisions to be carried out via email as most matters are on hold. The following is therefore mostly information that would have been imparted at the meeting. The few decisions made were agreed by at least three members (as required by our Trust Deeds).

The form (and dates) of future meetings will be determined nearer their time.

1 Minutes of January meeting.

1.1 No concerns were raised.

2 Matters arising.

2.1 See separate entries below.

3 Accounts.

3.1 The bank balances as at 14 April 2020: the current account is £5946.85 and the Business Reserve account £3857.34. The sudden depletion is due to paying for the repairs to the wooden framework of the hall and the painting of the roof and external walls. When the committee ratifies the Reserves Policy (at a future meeting), these costs will be borne by the reserve account but a transfer from the current account to the reserves account will most likely happen, too.

3.2 RB and IE have agreed that during the time of the current emergency cheques will no longer be written, if possible, and payments will instead be made by BACS, i.e. online. We have had online access to our accounts for some time but only used this for viewing transactions and for downloading up to date statements, but we have now registered the NatWest card reader associated with the accounts and used it successfully.

3.3 Due to the lock down, all use of the hall has ceased, and since the arrangements with our regulars have always been 'pay only when you use it' we should not expect any income until normality returns. Assuming no return before August, this amounts to a loss of income of approximately £980. It may well last longer than this. IE is receiving regular advice from ACRK, and RB will check whether a claim for loss of income is possible under our insurance policy.

3.4 The 100 Club winners this year to date are:-

January: £15 Emma Moore, £10 Inken Thompson;

February: £15 Robert Dane, £10 Matilda Moore;

Draws are now suspended until the lock down measures are eased to allow gatherings as, traditionally, people independent of the 100 Club and the Lees Committee are invited to act as drawers.

4 Fund-raising and events.

- 4.1 The AGM scheduled for 12 May is cancelled. IE will write the usual Chairman's Report and this will be placed on the website with the annual accounts. Residents will be informed of this by email (if on IE's mailing list) and a notice posted in the Parish Magazine.
- 4.2 The 2020 Badlesmere 10k Run scheduled for Sunday 6th September may or may not take place. However, the deposit for the chip-timing facility will remain valid until the race does happen.
- 4.3 The 75th anniversary of VE Day will not be celebrated, at least not as a public event. The Pageantmaster has suggested town criers and solo pipers can still play their part but this does not affect Badlesmere Lees. However, he is encouraging all to undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3 pm on the 8th May. People could also take part in celebrations safely by joining BBC Local Radio in making their own VE Day Great British Bunting. The Royal British Legion is calling on people across the UK to pause for a Two Minute Silence at 11 am on Friday 8 May in a moment of reflection and Remembrance.
- 4.4 The annual Wine and Wisdom event due to take place on Saturday 28 November is unlikely to happen since the organisers and many of the usual table bookers will probably be still self-isolating awaiting a vaccine whatever the official status of the lock down. If social distancing was still a requirement this too would cause the event to be cancelled.

5 Support to the village during the Coronavirus lock down.

- 5.1 IE has used his list of contacts to ensure all known old and/or vulnerable people in Badlesmere and Leaveland had received offers of help from neighbours. The strength of the response showed that Badlesmere Lees is a very caring community. The Parochial Church Council then supplied a list of others in the far flung corners of the two parishes and all these were successfully contacted, too.
- 5.2 The Red Lion has had to close (as part of the lock down) but is continuing to supply a limited menu as takeaway. IE has distributed the current menu via his mailing list. The menu is also on their website and Facebook.
- 5.3 A resident suggested the setting up of a Facebook page for Badlesmere Lees, similar to Sheldwich's. After canvassing opinions of neighbourhood social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and NextDoor, the committee decided not to pursue the suggestion.

6 Maintenance of the Hall.

- 6.1 The painting of the roof was completed by early April.
- 6.2 The carpenter who was expected to carry out the repairs to the timber framework in the walls became unavailable, but another was found (recommended by the painter). The work was completed in three days, and included repairs to the floor in the ladies' toilets.
- 6.3 With the corrugated sheets back in place the external walls were able to be painted.

- 6.4 The drainage system associated with the guttering was found to be blocked and damaged. Its unearthing and repairs are now underway.

7 Maintenance of the Lees and Tracks.

- 7.1 The first mowing of the lees has taken place, and the next is scheduled for the end of April.
- 7.2 No Winter/Spring clean-ups of the lees have been arranged this year. However, some removal of dead branches has taken place by volunteers working independently. Because the emptying of brown bins (garden waste) by Swale B C was suspended, IE suggested to the village that combustible garden waste could be placed beside the village hall car park and a bonfire lit there in due course. Since this is where bonfires have been lit in previous years from the debris collected in clean-up sessions, the Lees Court Estate has permitted this arrangement.
- 7.3 The 'Private Road' sign for the North Track announcing 'Access only to ...; No access to Saddlesdane' has been attached to an existing post near the start of the track.
- 7.4 Many of the potholes in the North Track have been filled using planings 'borrowed' from the South Track stock. A more permanent solution will need to be sought, though this may not happen until some degree of normality returns. The rationale for using Type 1 was that no further material will need to be purchased and only resurfacing needed from time to time, which should be cheaper in the long run. BP to contact local contractor.
- 7.5 The South Track planings will need to be replenished in due course (IE to arrange).

8 On hold due to the virus (or still outstanding):

- 8.1 The plumbing-in of the dishwasher.
- 8.2 The problem of dumping garden waste on the lees.
- 8.3 The purchase of chairs for the hall.
- 8.4 The village sign.
- 8.5 The removal of the rubble, near the main entrance to the hall and at the rear near the hall's toilets. Both lots came from the replacement of the wall/fence at the rear of the hall by TS (Colleys Cottage). TS has agreed to arrange the removal as soon as possible.

9 National Village and Community Hall Survey.

- 9.1 This survey, which is carried out every ten years, was received from ACRE via Action with Communities in Rural Kent. IE completed the 121 questions online, with RB having checked the entries before it was submitted. The survey may benefit the hall indirectly, such as by changing how halls are licensed, but its immediate value to the committee is that it highlighted what matters the management committee should be addressing in addition to those more obvious and pressing that the committee considers anyway.

AGM, 12 May 2020, cancelled.

Next committee meeting, virtual or real: Tuesday, 14 July 2020.