

Minutes of Preston and Elmstone Village Society meeting held

11th June 2009 at the Half Moon & Seven Stars

Present:

Roger Ayling (Acting Chairman)
Alan Coller (Treasurer)
Louise Perryman (Secretary)
Ollie Chapman
Patricia Simpson
John Simpson
Duncan Scott
Jan Rudolph

1. Apologies received from David Theoff, Lorna Listbrain, Pip Hazelton and Karen Wright

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 13th May 2009 were adopted as a true record, except that Roger Ayling and Pip Hazelton were omitted from the list of those present.

3. Matters arising

It was agreed that matters arising would be dealt with by items on the agenda.

4. Payment of accounts

AC confirmed he had received the 2nd stage payment of £500 for production of the Village Design Statement and also a contribution of £325 from the Parish council. He had also paid out £60 for Public Liability insurance at the Steam rally weekend. He stated that the current cash balance was £1347 in the bank and £99 in petty cash.

5. Village Society Events

Goosebumps Event

AC reported that Goosebumps accounts were now settled apart from small amounts of a few pounds with individuals purchasing stock. **Action ALL:** Any outstanding items to be settled by next meeting if possible. **LP** to see whether Goosebumps might repeat the event next year

Steam Rally 27th 28th June

RA reviewed in detail how we got to where we are in terms of our current undertaking at the Steam Rally, reminding the committee that it had moved from being an advertisement for the Village Society to a major fundraising event. He circulated a photo of the marquee and a suggested layout.

Following various sub-committee meeting he said that more fridges were still needed and re-iterated the scaled down approach to food, keeping it mainly to drinks and cakes, for which sufficient cold storage could be provided. Also this would not clash with other traders, which was a concern for LL.

The provision of packed lunches for volunteers requested by LL was discussed and it was agreed that we would make up special packs, in strong bags or small boxes, to be handed over upon presentation of vouchers. RA said that for him it was absolutely essential that these packs be provided free of charge as a thank you for having been allocated a good site at the rally at absolutely no charge.

AC offered an additional awning for use as a shady storage area and also a steel frame for supporting the tea urns. JR offered pallets to help with support if required. PS suggested tablecloths and plastic over to keep them clean and easy to wipe down.

It was agreed that another food planning meeting was needed. The Catering Committee will meet, probably next Tuesday 16th June, at The Breeches, (date to be confirmed), to confirm the numbers to be catered for, finalise food to be offered and to look at the tent layout.

Musical Evening

Duncan Scott brought notices and flyers about the Musical Event to be held in the garden at Forstal House on Sunday 19th July, to the meeting to be distributed. He asked for some posters to be laminated and requested members to undertake to sell tickets.

6. Young Persons Action Plan

PS reported that she had been disappointed to hear that there was a possible set back to the plans for setting up new Youth Clubs in the Ash, Wingham and Preston Youth Project, because Yvonne Holder, Youth Development Officer at Dover District Council, had had to go on long term sick leave. The meeting scheduled for Monday morning 15th June had been cancelled and she was awaiting further information.

7. Reports on Action Plan Progress

Renovation of Village Hall

JS was pleased to report that the Open Day held on 23rd May had been a very successful event and 80 people had signed the visitors' book, although it was thought that more than 80 attended with several people coming in through the back door after visiting the Plant Sale. The Plant Sale had raised just over £200. A few comments had been written in the comment book, all of them very favourable. The general impression of the day had been that virtually everyone was in favour of the new design and the intention to build a new hall. A few people were disappointed that there is not a full sized permanent stage in the design but accepted that the need for storage was in competition for the space

for a stage. The comments from the open day will be into consideration at the meeting to discuss the final design, to be held Friday 12th June.

AC said that the Renovation Committee should be congratulated on the success of the Open Day due to their hard work in producing such a clear and informative display of the proposed design.

Newsletter

PS and JS reported the Newsletter was currently at the printers, was due to be collected the following day with distribution anticipated at the weekend.

Speedwatch

OC reported that he and Frank Pinnington, Parish Clerk, had had a meeting with representative from the Highways Department to discuss the positioning of "gateways" at either end of The Street. He reported possible progress, but there was a funding issue for the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Watch

A NW Newsletter is to accompany the distribution of the Preston Newsletter.

Any Other Business

RA reported he had recently had a discussion with Leyland Ridings (County Councillor) who had volunteered £500 from his Community Fund, and it was suggested this sum could either go towards the Village Hall fund, or JS suggested this sum could be put towards the proposed Football Shelter. Further confirmation of the sum offered is to be sought.

JR reported that the Village Society Reading Group now seems to be well established with five or six attending the meetings, and the History Group had held two meetings so far, with discussion on the aims and objectives of the group, focussed now on chronology of significant events from the past, and an emerging interest in local historical buildings. We had been fortunate that in response to the announcement of the formation of the group in last Newsletter, Mrs Jean Hougham Griggs had lent us her thesis written in 1975 on "The Village of Preston: 1840 and Today". This document is proving to be a mine of information and significance in relation to research sources, and is highly valued by the group.

Next meeting Wednesday 8th July 2009