

Minutes of the Village Society Committee held 9 September 2009 at the Half Moon and Seven Stars

Present; David Theoff (Chairman), Pat Simpson, Duncan Scott, Roger Ayling, John Simpson, Jan Rudolph (Secretary), Tim Offord, Pip Hazelton,

Apologies received from; Ollie Chapman

DT welcomed Tim Offord as a new member to the committee.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record

Matters arising from the last meeting – David has written to Leyland Ridings about the grant and other matters are covered by the agenda.

Finance

Alan was not present so there was no Treasurer's report. Regarding the Gig in the Barn the band has been paid and the financial report to be covered next month.

Events

Gig in the Barn – disappointing attendance was due to several factors e.g last weekend of the school holidays, key people away or otherwise engaged and our marketing strategy. Although we did 28 x A4 posters and 3 x A3 with arrows the small posters were not easily read from a car. We also assumed people would know who Gearbox is and did not describe the event for those who did not. Lessons; target marketing, leaflet drop, large posters, better literature and signage, advertising done early. In conclusion although we made a limited or no profit it was a very enjoyable evening to those that attended.

Wine Tasting – Friday 16 October. John still to talk to Mike Connolly about the wine. A flier will go with the September Newsletter. Cost £8 per head and £40 for a table of 6. We have the offer of a free hair-do for the Raffle.

Quiz Night – Saturday 14 November. To be organised by the Village Hall Committee and Martin Knight does the questions. Village Society could run a bar to sell beer and snacks we have in stock.

Coffee morning – Saturday 5 December to be confirmed.

Beating the Bounds – John, Pat and Alan are working with Chris Bracher to identify the boundaries and the route. They are contacting the school to get the children involved and identifying refreshment points. This has led to the suggestion of a Sunday walking group.

Beer tasting event – Karen has a contact to do a tasting event for speciality bottled beers.

Panto – 29, 30, 31 January 2010. A flier will be put around the village advertising an open meeting for anyone interested especially in acting on Saturday 26 September. Lesley Blake will also leaflet the secondary school children on the school bus. The panto will be a series of sketches. Tim will give what support he can to the project but due to his business and other theatrical commitments cannot give much time to this project. As another former member of the theatrical group Duncan felt the same.

The Way Forward

David expressed concern that we are doing much of the work and are seen as the main fundraisers instead of the strategic and enabling role that we envisaged. There was much discussion on how we could widen the range of people involved and empower others as we cannot do it all. Through the Village Hall Committee we are already in touch with the organisations that use the Hall and we must find ways to engage the others and people who do not belong to any of the clubs.

- Create a communication network of a representative of each organisation who are willing to pass information on to their members.
- Get an e-mail address for everyone in the village for marketing events and requesting help
- Ask for help e.g. FOPS, Village Hall Committee

Young Persons Action Plan

On 27 September the Parish councillors will hear a presentation by Dover DC Councillor Sue Chandler on the project to set up a Youth Club in the 3 villages of Preston, Wingham and Ash. It was agreed that the work on the football shelter should go ahead immediately.

Action Plan

Newsletter - Deadline is September 18. Jan and Duncan to send in their copy as soon as possible. Tim is kindly sponsoring this copy and will send his material to John & Pat.

Speedwatch – Ollie went to a meeting in Wingham where the main concern was lorries and fast cars.

Neighbourhood Watch – the next NW newsletter will go out with our newsletter, in which David is passing on some alerts to everyone from the NW Network.

Keep Village Clean – David to see Alan to confirm the September date.

Footpaths & Bridleways – Mr John Whitehead at Stourmouth has agreed to a TROT route through his land.

AOB.

There was no additional business.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 14 October at the Half Moon & Seven Stars