

## **Garvald Village Hall Trust- Minutes of meeting 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – Hall, 7.30pm**

**Present:** Gary McGregor GM Chair, Shirley Evatt SE Secretary, Richard Brand RB, Lee Robertson LR, Anne Raitt AR, Donald Sutherland DS, Sarah Ramsay SR Trustee, Phillip White PW Chair of Garvald and Morham Community Council.

**Apologies:** None

Minutes of the last committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved as a true and accurate account.

### **Financial Report:**

- TE provided a Finance Report:
  - Treasurers Account Balance: £4862.00 (includes payments for 3 wedding bookings).
  - Contingency Account: £3249.00
  - Hall Deposit Account £7131.00 (includes grant funding)
  - As at Jan 2024 - £230 left over in craft club funding pot.

### **Booking Secretary Report:**

- LE provided a Bookings Report
  - The Playgroup has given dates and running up until the end of this school year in June.
  - Craft group has its last date as the 2nd May but I am waiting to hear if it will continue.
  - Issue with the Council and the new process of booking of the orchard as a space, through [bookings@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@eastlothian.gov.uk)
  - A couple getting married in August has filled out the Council paperwork for booking the orchard and been given permission for the sum of £38
  - Please could the booking info that's available be updated to not read asking permission is a formality and, to ask permission through the above email and a small fee will be charged.
  - Kirsty has run a very well attended Yoga class over the last few weeks
  - Kerian wight is a caterer, who is doing the food for two weddings at the hall this summer and has queried whether he could become an approved caterer with a portion of their fee being paid to the hall per booking.
  - Five weddings are booked for this year.
  - A booking has been taken a booking for Easter 2026- which prompted a discussion about the prices not being relevant for 2 years' time?

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- Crack above kitchen door - if this would be filled before the first wedding which is the 7th June that would be amazing.

### **Matters Arising:**

- The topic of approved caterers was discussed on the back of LE's report. It was agreed that we can people aware when booking that there are caterers who have previously used the hall. We wouldn't be recommending caterers, just giving details. Details to be added to the website. **RB** to prepare paragraph and circulate to the committee for comment prior to uploading to the website. **RB** will also include wording regarding ELC permissions for erecting marquees in the orchard.
- The hall fees were discussed and it was agreed by all to retain them for now but to increase for next year by 10% and also include a note to state that rates are subject to annual review. **SE** to update rates on website.
- **SE** advised that costs for the various elements of hall repair works were expected by next meeting and a funding application would be made in accordance with these.
- **AR** queried whether anyone new whether the church can be booked for weddings etc. under the new ownership. **GM** offered to speak to Matthew at Nunraw and confirm.
- **LR** advised that the large crack on the rear wall has now been filled. Everyone agreed that this looked much better.
- **LR** noted that some guttering to the rear was detached.
- A plant sale has been arranged for 18<sup>th</sup> May. Isla Evatt to do teas and coffees. **SE** to advertise on website.
- **LE** has been liaising with East Lothian Council food safety hygiene certificate. Self-assessment form to be returned. **GM/SR** will complete.
- **LE** advised that
- **GM** queried with **TE** what the annual running costs for the hall are. **TE** to check and advise.
- **LR** has introduced ultrasonic mouse repellents in kitchen.
- **RB** to check with cleaner and advise if any signs of mice.
- **SR** noted it would still be good to a deep clean of the kitchen but clearing out should be completed first. This could be included in the next hall maintenance day.
- **GM** queried whether the committee would be interested in arranging and hosting a table top sale as a local resident had asked. Everyone agreed that this would be best arranged and hosted by residents themselves. **AR** offered to ask around and gauge interest in taking this on.
- **PW** advised that Home Energy Scotland took place and £30,000.00 is in place to help families with home energy bills. Up to £1000 can be claimed per applicant. This could go towards improvements such as insulation enhancements and window replacement etc. Details will be posted to Garvald.org.
- **AR** asked if the committee could host and arrange Sunday afternoon lunch events as a local resident had suggested this. **DS** suggested alternative option would be that guests all bring a dish to avoid burden on committee. It was agreed that this could be implemented by others and the idea would be revisited in the Autumn at a quieter time. **AR** to leaflet/advertise in due course.

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**Any Other Business:**

- The issue of the village being overrun by rabbits was discussed. **PW** advised that Neil Macdonald and undertaken to cull. **PW** to check progress.
- **GM/SR** advised that funding had been approved to improve the park and riverside. Issues such as flooding and tree planting to be considered in future plans.
- **SR** suggested moving the chairs from the cupboards/small rooms back into the hall to free up some storage space. Chairs could be stacked along the walls as they used to be, but limit number of chairs to reduce risk of toppling. **RB/DS** expressed safety concerns and risk to children but would discuss with the playgroup members and convey their opinions back to the committee.

**Date of next Committee meeting – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 @ 7.30pm in the Hall**