

Minutes of the ORAC meeting held on 10 November 2009

Committee Present: Steve, Dan, Andrew, Dawn, Linda, Nigel, Gordon, Scott and Di.

Others Present: Mr and Mrs Trythall – until 8.00pm.

Apologies: Rob and Donald

Presentation by Mr Trythall: Mr Trythall had been invited along to the meeting to outline his plans regarding production of a play in the village hall and the setting up of a drama club.

Mr Trythall hoped to start a drama club in the village, this had been quite widely advertised – for actors and supporting members – with hardly any result. He has written a play of about one and three-quarter hours duration, which he would like to stage in the hall. This would entail several rehearsals before hand, which would also utilise the hall. As well as the actual production, there would of course be a call for people to act in support, both front and back stage.

Mr Trythall was thanked for his attendance, and ORAC would discuss this matter to see if assistance could be offered.

After Mr and Mrs Trythall had left the meeting, discussion took place as to how ORAC could support this venture in the first instance. It was noted that when questionnaires had been completed by villagers regarding possible uses for the hall, that a drama club had been quite a popular choice. After much thought, it was decided to offer the following support to Mr Trythall:-

1. ORAC could fund and provide all local advertising for the first production.
2. ORAC could provide and run all sales of refreshments, ticket sales, licensed bar and act as ushers for the first production.
3. ORAC would not make any charge as such, for the use of the hall in respect of rehearsal times and showing of the first production.
4. In return, ORAC suggested that revenue from all sales of refreshments etc. and 50% of revenue from ticket sales, be donated to ORAC, in respect of the first production only.

5. If following the first production, a drama club was not formed, then a further 40% from the ticket sales be donated to ORAC.
6. ORAC would only be able to have this level of interest, in the first production. Thereafter, the Drama Club, if formed, would have full autonomy.
7. A suggestion was made to Mr Trythall that, perhaps a well-known, light-entertainment piece, could be put on as a production in the first instance, to see if more interest would be more forthcoming.

Minutes: of the previous meeting were agreed.

Treasurer's Report: £8,000 of the balance from the 6th certificate of payment for ES&H was still partly being withheld, due to ongoing snagging issues. Regular Hirer income is in excess of £4,000, in the first 4 months of the hall being open. Dawn has applied for a further two grants for £20,000 and £7,500.

A poppy wreath was laid by ORAC on Remembrance Sunday.

Finally, Dawn asked if the committee were in agreement for her to undertake internet banking for ORAC accounts. This was agreed unanimously.

Oracle: The Sentimental Journey evening for 14 November, was a sell-out and it was requested that any profits from that evening, be spent on furnishings for the hall.

Further Oracle Evenings are planned and on 19 January and 11 May respectively, a nutritionist and a local author would be speaking. It is hoped that these events will also include quizzes, local talent, craft and possible off-site visits to places of interest.

Web Site: The number of 'hits' to the site is now running at about 700 per month – a wonderful achievement by Barry. Committee agreed that personal advertisements on the site, could now be free of charge.

Village Green: Parish Council had consulted with the Mid Suffolk Tree Officer, regarding the possible removal of some trees for the installation of a bus stop and this had been agreed. It was reported that the telephone box could not be removed, as it is required for emergency use for the local area. Parish Council were arranging for a site visit from Suffolk County Council to ascertain whether the proposed piece of land was viable for erection of a bus stop.

Village Hall: The burglar alarm had been falsely set off on 2 occasions. Steve had a preliminary meeting with the installing engineer and further work was recommended in an effort to reduce the risk of this happening again. This work was agreed and the engineer would be asked to action this as soon as possible. A quotation had been received for the erection of a cage around the oil tank. It was decided to review this matter in the new year. A second cleaner, Liz Kirk, has now been employed to work alongside Bill.

Di put forward a list of essential equipment which was needed for the hall, committee agreed that some of these items could be purchased. Quotations could also be obtained for the provision of blinds or curtains, for the main hall and kitchen.

Playing Field: Bill would be asked to hand mow the newly seeded areas around the hall.

Following discussion, it was decided to re-instate the dog-ban on the playing field and associated areas.

Fund Raising/Marketing: The annual Christmas Dinner will take place on Saturday 5 December. A suggestion had been made for Santa to visit the village hall on Christmas Eve, so that children could be brought along to meet him. This was agreed.

W.I. had requested dart boards be installed in the hall, to enable them to participate in competitions. This was agreed, with the necessary inclusion of wall and floor protection.

Following a successful Food Safety Inspection at the hall, flyers and notices will be produced in order to see if there is enough interest in the village, for a Lunch Club in the hall.

Final details for the New Year's Eve Party, were still to be decided. Liz (Kirk) had suggested providing refreshments for when Thorndon Vipers are using the field on Saturday mornings. Committee were generally in agreement with this and Vipers would be contacted to ask if they were interested.

Secretary's Report: A letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Wright. The full licence application for the hall has to go before a hearing panel at Mid Suffolk District Council. This will be on 26 November. This is because representations had been made concerning levels of noise emanating from the village hall and site.

Di reported that she had submitted additional notes to Mid Suffolk, to be included with the application, which stated that outdoor events would be limited to 6 per year.

Date of next meeting: 12 January 2010

The meeting closed at 11.30pm