

Minutes of the ORAC committee meeting held on Tuesday 3rd September 2013 in Occold Pre-School

Present: Rob, Scott, Donald, Linda Jay, Martin, Di, Dee, Anne, Angela, Lindsay

Apologies: Nigel, Linda st Pier,

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th June were discussed and approved.

Anne Stainsby was welcomed to the meeting, the committee unanimously agreed to her joining the committee.

Treasurer's report: Di presented the treasurers report. The main account had a balance of approximately £4000. The current account had been used to pay for the new acoustic panels. ORAC had received grants from Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk District Council totalling £4700 towards the new acoustic panels required to comply with the conditions of the planning requirements. A payment had been made to ES&H for £2700 from the builder's retention fund.

Matters arising

Update on retention money due to the village hall builders ES&H: Rob explained in detail the current position regarding the retention fund and the outstanding amount due to the village hall builder. In summary the Rob had written to the builder to offer a solution, he suggested that as ORAC had incurred cost to rectify the problems identified with the build, which as the builders had not completed it was reasonable to remove these costs from the amount due to the builder, but ORAC would not pursue the costs of the replacement acoustic hoods required to comply with the planning enforcement. It was suggested that ORAC should continue to take the stance that the hall did not meet design requirements for a community building. It was possible that the builder could take legal action to recover the disputed costs but Rob felt that ORAC had a strong case of defence. Rob advised that the representative of ES&H would like to meet full committee to discuss the matter with the committee. Dates for a possible meeting were suggested as the 8th, 15th or 22nd October 2013.

Occold market: The committee discussed the Occold Market and it was agreed that these were an asset to the village and wider community. The committee wished to express their gratitude to Barry and Pat for their efforts in the running of these. The committee agreed ongoing support for the markets to continue in 2014. The committee also agreed that they were happy for the proceeds to be donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance, however they felt that if Barry or Pat wished to support a different charity the committee would support the decision. It was agreed that the markets would be highlighted in the Oracle.

Fire risk assessment: The latest village hall fire risk assessment was carried out on completion of the village hall build and may not be accurate now the hall was in full use. Linda also stated that the Pre-School needed an independent assessment but

needed access to the general hall assessments. Further investigation would take place to identify a suitable person to carry out these assessments.

Play area: It was reported that the play area was becoming overgrown with weeds and other areas around the hall required some attention. It was also noted that the picnic bench in the play area is in a poor state of repair. It was agreed to approach a commercial gardener to see if we could arrange regular maintenance of the play area. A new bench would be investigated. Some of the committee agreed to do some weeding as available.

American evening: The forthcoming American evening was discussed, after some discussion it was agreed this would be a Wild West themed event. The band had been booked for the event. It was decided there would not be a welcome drink included in the ticket price. Ticket costs were agreed as £15 head. Tables would seat 10. The committee would endeavour to sell tickets.

Christmas dinner: It was agreed the next committee meeting would be brought forward brought forward to 12th November to enable the committee to focus on Christmas dinner at the next meeting. Ticket costs were agreed as £12.50 & £10 for concessions. A target of 80 persons to attend was set.

AOB: Donald suggested a village open gardens and garage sale event for the summer of 2014. It was agreed that this was a good suggestion for the village.

The meeting was closed at 9:30pm.

Next meeting 12th September 2013 at 7:30pm.