

ORAC Annual General Meeting 11th May 2016 Occold Village Hall

Present: (outgoing committee): Rob, Di, Scott, Martin, Dee, Donald, Nigel, Linda, Neil

Present: (others)

Apologies: Ann North(committee), Lyndsay(committee), Brian Hull, Stephen Hubner, Jill Richardson, Greg Noller, Barry Woods

Chairman's welcome and report

Rob opened the meeting as chairman and welcomed attendees to the meeting. Rob outlined recent events including the Beacon Lighting and Queens birthday celebrations as successful village events. Rob updated on the pending proposal for a rear porch as a means to further control noise leakage, however this was still on hold whilst the new acoustic equipment was evaluated. Events still required observation to ensure compliance with the noise enforcement action and it was noted that this was problematic in the summer months when the windows and doors were required to be shut and the village hall got hot. There was still an ongoing proposal to build an additional storage building in the form of a 2 bay garage, this was an ongoing project. Rob noted that funding for this was being supported by the school and would provide storage for the school gym equipment.

Occold had recently been awarded third place in the Suffolk county Council best small village awards. This showed how successful Occold was in engaging with the community.

The village fete would be a scaled back event in 2016, this was largely due to the falling income and attendance from the fete and the falling numbers of volunteers to help run events.

The village had hosted three pop up pub evenings over the period the Beaconsfield Arms was closed, but this was never intended to be the purpose of the village hall but had been successful in hosting these events.

Minutes of the last AGM

Martin read the minutes of the last AGM. These were accepted and signed by Rob.

Treasurer's report

Di reported on the 2015/2016 accounts and thanked Dawn Crisp for auditing these. Di noted that the hall operations had made a loss of £965.47 against a surplus of £1244.02 for the previous year, this was due to a fall in revenue from hall hirers, generally spread across all users. Private hire income was £350 lower than the previous year and a late payment of £300 from 2013/14 was included in 2014/15 accounts. Expenditure showed two insurance premium payments due to late invoicing from Suffolk ACRE. Fundraising showed a small decrease of £17.66 on the previous year. The main events had been the fete netting £865 and Christmas dinner with

£556. Income from recycling was slightly increased. The new hall account was due to be closed and only contained a small balance from an interest payment. The lunch club account showed a decrease by £191, but ORAC was indebted to the volunteers who help to run this club and for the kitchen equipment purchased with the profits made.

Di reported that overall the accounts showed a balance of £17640.96 with a net profit of £1805.09 for the 2015/16 financial year.

Rob added that the Pre School revenue was the main income for the hall and further activities within the hall added to income.

Donald asked if the acoustic compliance was an ongoing cost, Rob answered that all remedial action had been taken and ORAC could only await to see the effectiveness of this. Di responded saying the committee had not been made aware of any recent complaints. The terms and conditions for hall hire had been amended to include a fine for the hirer if noise limits were breached. Rob added that the hall was a village resource and hired only for events linked to the village, thus limiting the potential for breaches by those unconnected with the village.

Di concluded her report by looking to the future, the committee needed to ensure that there were enough funds for the proposed additional storage area build and renovation of the play area. Di suggested that for the future fund raising events could be scaled back and potentially ORAC could be replaced by a hall management committee to manage the hall and associated events.

Oracle report: Di presented the oracle report. The Oracle was produced 4 times per year. Di expressed thanks to Alice Regan for general delivery and to Lesley Hull for delivery to outlying village properties. Di was keen to include village news. During the year some advertisers had been lost but there had been some new ones. Advertising in the Oracle also included free advertising on the village website. Di expressed thanks to Envigo (formerly HLS) for printing of the magazines.

Occold fayres: – Barry Woods had kindly provided an update on the Fayres held monthly in the village Hall, Martin read a summary. The fayres had raised £1246.44 for various good causes in 2015. Suffolk Animal Rescue had been a beneficiary and £572.34 had been raised for this charity through the fayres.

Web site report: Martin presented the report as supplied by Barry, a copy of the website report will be available on file. The ownership of the www.occold.com domain had now been passed to the parish council. Barry would continue to maintain the website but felt it still continued to be underutilised by the village.

Lunch club report: Dawn crisp presented the lunch club report. The lunch club had been running for six years since the completion of the new village hall. Links had been made with AgeUK and the rural coffee caravan. Costs per meal were £5/head which made it affordable to all. 2015/16 had been a year of change with changes in volunteers and attendees. 27 meals were served on average per sitting. Thanks were expressed to all volunteers and Carol Mayhew for overseeing the team and doing the food shopping.

Occold Pre-school: Linda gave an update on the pre-school. Numbers were due to drop as 14 would leave at the end of the summer term. The recent AGM had shown a loss and more income was needed. Changes to legislation to provide 30hours of free education may benefit the pre-school. The pre-school had been nominated for an award for its support of children with sensory difficulties.

Committee 2015/2016

As per the standard procedure the committee resigned for re-election at the subsequent ORAC committee meeting.

Any Other Business/Questions for the outgoing committee

The Secretary of The WI asked about the fete as this was an important fund raising event for the WI. Rob responded that stalls would be welcome at the new event.

It was asked about the charity supported by the Occold Fayres, this was led by Barry Woods and he should be consulted on this.

Rob asked the floor if there was anything different that they would like to see from ORAC.

Donald asked about the possibility of a village yard sale event, this would be looked into.

Rob also noted that a date would be scheduled for further footpath/hedge maintenance and any volunteers would be welcome.

The AGM was closed at 21:10