

ORAC Meeting Minutes 30.05.17 7.30pm

Present: Dave Cox, Chairman; Di Noller, Treasurer; Alison Davenport Jones, Secretary; Julia Pointer; Sandra Cox; Gordon Erhorn; Nigel Woodhouse; Anne Stainsby; Neil Flack, committee members

Present: Paul

Apologies: Neil Sizer.

Welcome the new and old committee

Dave opened the meeting and welcomed the committee. Members introduced themselves

Treasurer's report

Di presented the report for 1.4.17. A copy is on file. Di explained key features of the report and answered questions from the Chairman and other committee members:

- The Lunch Club Treasurer sends Di a separately administered account. Revenue from Lunch club is primarily used to fund kitchen equipment
- Opus is the electricity supplier, NWG is water, Anglia is sewage
- Di will keep an eye on the water usage and bills
- Bank accounts need two new signatories. The majority of banking is done online. The Secretary is 2nd signatory, Chairman 3rd.
- Since the AGM, Di has applied to Jewson's for a community grant but it was unsuccessful. She is trying with Tesco community fund and Suffolk Giving fund (for new storage)

Preschool news

Di presented Linda's report from the preschool. They have been using the allotment (first one through the gate) and enjoying it. The new grassed area is a big success. The Preschool had a recent OFSTED inspection which they believe went well. The result of the inspection will be published in 10 days or so. Forthcoming events include:

Friday 23rd June Sports day 15:30 - 17:30. BBQ and raffle, all welcome

Saturday 8th July afternoon tea fundraiser - all adults welcome £10, incl. refreshments

Monday 31st July - Creepy crawlies afternoon

End of term bake a cake sale, date tba.

Dave extended thanks for Linda's report

Hall extension

Plans for the extension drawn up by Di's brother were handed to Dave.

Storage is necessary for the school (50%) and other hall users (50%). It was noted that the chairs should not be stored in the hall.

Two quotes of £30k - £40k were obtained from local builders.

Hopefully the detailed drawings will allow for more accurate and realistic quotes from builders/ trades.

It was agreed that the footings could be prepared in advance of any other work being organised. Each stage of the building process can be tackled individually as this should be more cost effective than retaining one building firm.

The Building Control notes will be submitted for approval.

The oil tank needs moving and relocating on a bigger plinth.

Dave will make contact with Paul Parslow Williams, Headteacher at the school, and discuss the extension with him. Once we know what the school will contribute, the committee will be in a better position to decide the next step.

The school has access to the hall on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term time, for which they are invoiced termly (i.e. 3 times a year)

Future fundraising ideas:

After much discussion, it was agreed to hold a Community pop-up pub night on Saturday 1st July. Dominoes, cribbage, board games, cards, drinks, sausage sizzle and snacks will be available. Gordon volunteered to produce a flyer, Sandra and Alison will deliver them.

A sub committee was formed to improve the pop-up bar: Dave, Neil, Di, Gordon to meet Tuesday 6th June @ 7pm at the Village Hall.

Christmas dinner catering will be booked with the usual caterers.

Environment around the hall

Concerns were raised about the overgrown trees, bushes and nettles around the back of the hall. Robert Febercorn is responsible for grass cutting. Committee members will undertake maintenance of the areas that Rob doesn't attend to.

Dave asked for the No dogs allowed sign from Di.

Anti-social behaviour by youngsters in cars doing wheelies in the car park has been reported to the Police. Dave and Sandra have spoken to the lads, hopefully this will deter them. The option of installing gates was discussed. It was pointed out that there were removable posts in place a few years ago but these are difficult to manage with a high volume of hall users

Village fun day

Usually first Saturday in July but as there is very little time to prepare, this will be considered as a September event, perhaps along the lines of "Party in the Park".

Committee members were asked to send Dave their ideas for the fun day before the next meeting on Tuesday 13th June.

Co-operatives

Rather than individuals buying logs and oil, we could start a co-operative. Interest will be evaluated from public response after the inclusion of an entry in Oracle magazine

Playground repairs

Di has had a quote from another company who specialise in wet pour surfaces and will do individual areas, which would be financially viable. Disclaimer sign to be installed after the area has been upgraded. The climbing frame needs bark to improve the ground surface but this is very expensive.

Gordon suggested asking for benefactors in the village, he will design and print 200 flyers.

Hall repairs

2 lights car park, 2 in lobby, store room doors, toilet seat in lady's loo, stained woodwork on outside of hall, broken roof tile, broken downpipe, threshold strips to storeroom causing extreme damage to the doors.

Julia to speak to her neighbour Steve on Dublin Road regarding carpentry work.

Roof tile: Contact Otto or Steve.

Car park lights: Electrician has been twice and reports that the units are letting in water.

Lights are on wooden posts that are rotting and should be replaced with steel posts and LED lamps. Dave will investigate options.

Oracle Magazine

The next issue should be ready within three weeks.

New / additional investors and advertisers needed. Envigo print 275 copies without charge, which covers Occold and the outlying villages. Some copies go into the church and pub (when it is functioning)

Committee members could try to secure new business from advertisers: one half page advert each for the next edition. Prices: Full page ad for a year £54, half page £30 a year

AOB

- Changing the name of ORAC was deemed to be unviable. Dave said we need to change the image, not the name.
- Future meetings will start at 19:45
- Village Green - Is a new person needed to maintain it? Dave will speak to Donald.
- More dog fouling signs required, Alison will obtain these and install them around the village.
- Issues regarding the standard of cleaning were discussed. Di will speak to the cleaners and report back to the committee. Future hirers will be asked to ensure the facilities are left in a properly clean state, and that the hire charge will increase if they fail to clean effectively.
- Di asked committee to approve her continuing as Treasurer but not doing fund raising and other jobs.
- Rob would like to be co-opted although he is not available all the time. Committee agreed he is very welcome. A letter will be sent thanking him for his offer.

Next meeting is set for 13th June at 7.45 pm