

ORAC Meeting Minutes Thursday 31st August 2017 @ 19:45

Present: Dave Cox, Sandra Cox, Alison Davenport Jones, Julia Pointer, Nigel Woodhouse, Neil Flack, Neil Sizer, Debbie Phillips, Di Noller, Gordon Erhorn, Anne Stainsby, Rob Richardson

Nicola and her husband from Shell Cottage.

Dave opened the meeting at 19.47. Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- **Treasurer's report**

DN circulated the latest financial report. A copy is on file. Total cash assets are just under £17,000.

Pop up pub profits total around £900

BT broadband bill was 128.40. DN has negotiated a new deal with BT that will save us around £30 per quarter.

Flowers have been arranged for the new pub landlords Peter and Leigh on the occasion of the pub opening.

The amount on the last statement for the wifi extender for the preschool will not be repaid to ORAC as it is part of their rental agreement that they have access to wifi.

NF offered a vote of thanks to DC for his hard work running the pop up pub.

- **Oracle magazine**

JP and DP are hoping to have an issue ready by the end of September. They have met with DN who is happy to guide them through the production of the first issue. JP has spoken to several people including the new pub landlords, and work is ongoing to produce interesting articles.

DN asked Envigo if they would supply better quality paper for the printing but as she has not had a definite response yet, asked JP and DP to chase them up. RR suggested buying the paper and giving it to Envigo. DC is keen to entice new advertisers and asked all committee members to work harder to secure more business. DN advises giving JP and DP time to settle into the job of producing the magazine before making too many demands on them.

Deadline for new ads and articles is 15th September, distribution last week of September.

DC will prepare a thank you certificate for Envigo.

- **Occold website**

NF has worked through the pages related to ORAC on the Occold website but has not yet been able to make any changes as Barry Woods has been unwell. NF hopes to have an update at the next meeting.

- **Hall extension**

DC has new drawings ready to present to the council for approval. The cost is around £180. There may be an issue with the design of the first floor extension as the window may be deemed to block light for the neighbouring houses, although as there is an existing line of trees, DC does not envisage a problem. RR questioned the provision of emergency exit routes: DC explained there are 2 stairways that satisfy the safety requirements. DC and NF will make an appointment to visit the planning office. RR asked about the cost as he expected it to be over £100,000: DC outlined the previously discussed and agreed plan to use local labour, and predicted costs of less than £30,000. NW is confident the footings can be done without paying a builder. DC and NF will report back at the next meeting.

- **Quiz Night arrangements**

Ticket sales: All committee members will be responsible for selling tickets. There will be a maximum of 16 tables of 6 people, and sales have to be completed by 18th to give ADJ and the catering group adequate organisation time. Drinks will only be available from the bar before the quiz starts, during the food break and after the quiz. A catering sub-committee was formed: Debbie, Di, Sandra, Ann, Julia, Alison.

Raffle: DN suggested a raffle to boost funds at the Quiz Night. Each committee member will provide one prize to be dropped off at DC's on Friday 22nd.

- **Race Night**

28th October. NS will organize the night and report at the next meeting. This event will be advertised in the surrounding villages and in Eye.

The bar will be open throughout: this will raise considerable funds for ORAC

- **The Beaconsfield Arms**

DC will continue to promote the pub on the village website and Facebook page, Residents of Occold

- **Village green**

ADJ will speak to Paul Parslow Williams at the school regarding involving some of the children in planting bulbs and wildflowers at the village green. Steve Jones will continue to maintain the grass and hedges. The grass there needs scarifying and treating as it is predominantly moss.

- **Play Area**

NS has inspected the area and suggests using bark only directly under pieces of equipment rather than the whole play area. Rubber chippings may be an option but NS and NF will measure and price for play bark and shuttering. ADJ asked for a completion date as this has been on the agenda every month since May. NS and NF aim to finish upgrading the play area before winter. DC will appeal for donations.

- **AOB**

Nuisance driver. NF gave an update and asked the committee to decide whether the young man who was served the S59 should be allowed to return to the park as he has now apologised. After much discussion, the committee voted in favour of allowing him back on the understanding he would be permanently banned if he misbehaves again. NF will draft a banning letter for future offenders.

The man who mows the field has damaged the grass, presumably with his vehicle. The school will be asked to contact him and elicit an assurance it will not happen again (as they pay his fee).

Proposed sewing group for beginners: Cynthia Capey asks ORAC to support her educational craft group by allowing her to use the village hall at a reduced rate. ADJ will advise her to liaise with the school and work out a mutually convenient time.

Villagers Nicola and her husband asked what is being done about the speeding through the village. As it is a Parish council project, ORAC were unable to give an answer, but NF will attempt to find out asap.

Date of the next meeting was set for 28th September

Sub-committee for catering meeting Tuesday 19th September at the pub 10.30 am

Tickets and posters for Quiz Night were distributed

Dave closed the meeting at 21:27