

ORAC Meeting Minutes 6.02.18 @18:30

Present: Dave Cox, Di Noller, Alison Davenport Jones, Sandra Cox, Jill Crouch, Neil Sizer, Nigel Woodhouse, Brian Hull, Robert Richardson, Terry Pointer

Neil Flack arrived 18:48. Anne Stainsby arrived 19:04

Absent: Gordon Erhorn

DC opened the meeting at 18:34

- **Oracle: Terry Pointer**

TP outlined the problems the editors are having with producing the Oracle magazine. Now that TP is aware of all the problems he has found ways to overcome them and the next magazine should look better and be delivered on time.

Distribution dates: 1st week April, July, September, December: this is to facilitate quarterly production.

There has been mainly positive feedback but a couple of complaints about print size – this was unavoidable for the last issue but has now been resolved. Future issues will be visually accessible.

The main problem is sourcing articles. Committee members and trustees agreed to help with this.

Advertising: TP has produced a schedule of rates which he will email to ADJ. These may change for 2019 but invoices have already been issued this year.

TP has investigated improving the quality of the paper, and of outsourcing the printing, but it would be very expensive and cause a deficit in the bank balance. DC has forged a link with Eye2Eye magazine and is waiting to hear back about their printing costs. TP recommends continuing with Envigo and trying to increase the number of advertisers.

DC extended thanks to TP for his report.

- **Treasurer's Report: Di Noller**

DN presented her report (copy on file). Balance of main account is £17,566.37. Lunch club balance is £1656.78. Total assets: £19,223.25. Payment to Forewood Floors will be made immediately (funded by the Insurance claim payment)

Di asked the committee to make sure potential advertisers are aware that adverts in the Oracle are also eligible for free web publication.

No payment has been made from Occold Preschool since last report. Their committee asked DN to inform ORAC they are unable to make any further payments during this financial year. However, they are receiving guidance from a Finance and Governance officer and are

hopeful of a turnaround in their fortunes. Andrew Stringer has generously donated £500 for marketing purposes to the Preschool. Advertising flyers will be distributed to every house within a 5 miles radius; this can be extended to 10 miles if necessary. BH has agreed to a new banner on the Eye Road. Preschool currently owe ORAC £2250. 2 members of staff are leaving and 1 new position has been advertised: there has been a good response and interviews will begin soon. 4 new children have started since Christmas. Hours have been increased to 0800 – 1630

RR asked where DN expects the account to be at quarter one. DN doesn't think it will be a problem paying their bills.

NF raised the point that Preschool were in the same position last year. RR stated £6000 has been lost in the last year. DC suggested that opening hours should extend to at least 18:00 as working parents need childcare later than 1630. DN agreed it should be considered, and said the room sits empty for the whole summer and could be generating income – this is an earning opportunity that should be utilised. Government funding is increasing to £4 an hour. DC suggested having Plan B in case the advertising doesn't work.

AS suggested using volunteers rather than paid staff, DBS and qualifications are required so this is not a complete solution.

DC thanked DN for her report.

- **Planning application update**

DC announced that planning permission for the hall extension has been granted and said he hopes the build will be funded by donations and local voluntary labour used as far as possible.

DN recommends applying for National Lottery and Garfield Weston Foundation funding. ADJ and AS to continue making applications to as many organisations and donors as possible.

RR said that as Trustees, himself, Steven Hubner and Brian Hull want to see a detailed business plan and costing for the project before they will approve the work.

ADJ asked if they were unlikely to grant permission. RR said he wanted to see details of the purpose and identified need of the building, along with detailed costs. ADJ asked why RR did not mention this at any of the meetings when the project was being discussed but he did not respond.

RR questioned the need for the planned extension, and the usefulness of the storage and office space. He referred to plans commissioned by the previous committee, of which he was Chairman, that proposed a detached garage style construction with a covered walkway to the main building. DC reiterated the reasons for rejecting that option, saying the plan was not fit for purpose, and was a wasteful design. Detailed costs would be provided in due course.

- **Upcoming events:**

Bar for School's Camel Race: DC asked for help with re-assembling the bar.

Race Night. NS 14th April booked. £275 all set up. 8 races, sponsor for each race. 50% of race money goes to ORAC. £5 adults, £3 children under 12. Buffet on tables.

Ceilidh: Booked for 16th June at a cost of £320 for the band and caller, payable on the night. Steve Jones and ADJ will do the catering: burgers and hotdogs.

Quiz & Curry: DC suggested £25 for lucky ticket. ADJ suggested £50 for 1st place: both proposals agreed by committee

- **Car park**

The cost of laying new tarmac is prohibitive. NF will contact B&B roadworks re patching holes in the entrance drive and sections of the main car park area.

- **Hall painting / maintenance**

The colour scheme for the painting of the hall was discussed and will be decided at the next meeting when we have colour charts

- **AOB**

NS Brome and Oakley social club would like to work with ORAC so our events don't clash.

ADJ asked for approval to run a Dementia/Alzheimer's quiz/fun night in September: Agreed, date to be arranged at the next meeting.

AS and SC to look at hall bookings and work out their own plan for cleaning.

Next full meeting Thursday 8th March @18:30

DC closed the meeting at 20:21