

The Tiddy Hall

Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

*Founded and given to the village by
R. Tiddy, Esq., in 1912*

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

Minutes

5 June 2023 19:00

Tiddy Hall

1. Present

John Bugeja (JB), Ingrid Ridley (IR), Mark Pidgeon (MP), Howard Morris (HM), Pauline Plant (PP), Kevin Bishop (KB)

2. Apologies

Simon Gidman (SG), Jacquie Bugeja (JacB)

3. Conflicts

MP and PP are regular users of Tiddy Hall

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved and signed.

5. Matters arising

- a. *HM to discuss issue re water supply when he next sees Mr Greatbatch.*
Deferred. Greatbatch is 'disappointed' with frozen pipes – blames Tiddy Hall!
No further action. Closed.
- b. *SG to follow up with Bob Chilcott regarding a music event.*
SG met Bob and agreed event outline. SG advised more likely to be summer 2024. **Action: SG to follow up with BC**
- c. *JB to liaise with HM and involve other committee members as appropriate to ensure we have a good understanding of our energy usage/costs.*
Meters readings appear to be correct. Further investigation continuing.
- d. *PP to follow up with Chipping Norton Glass regarding a quote for refitting the doors.*
Action: PP to chase and report back.
- e. *Devise and launch marketing campaign once new lighting system is in place (MP/JB)*
In progress. Promotional video being prepared. All trustees to promote.
- f. *Ensure we are fully compliant with licensing requirements with regard to both onsite and offsite alcohol sales (MP)*
Done and closed.
- g. *Organise music and PA for Coronation event (MP)*
Done & closed.

h. *3PS Fundraiser*

On the agenda.

6. Booking & Marketing Report (MP)

Full details of bookings can be found on the Tiddy Hall website.

7. Treasurer's report (HM)

HM shared an update in advance of the meeting. Revenue exceeded recurring cost though there was an overall deficit due to payment of the second instalment for the new stage lighting (an exceptional item). Barclays to open new Trustees Account to replace existing business account.

Action: HM to action.

8. Car park update

There was a lengthy debate on the subject. On the one hand, there was feeling that the current arrangements are too draconian and are causing some 'bad-will' amongst village residents. On the other hand, the new approach is working relatively smoothly now, following some initial teething troubles.

The objective with regard to the car park was reiterated; our aim is not to stop people parking in the car park when it is not being used for an event, but to ensure that any hirer using the hall also has full use of the car park.

It was agreed that:

- a. we would continue with the new approach for a further five weeks as events requiring the use of the car park are scheduled every weekend during this period;
- b. we will raise the issue in open forum at the AGM to gauge the strength of feeling regarding the car park being locked; and,
- c. we will prepare a communication via social media setting out the rationale for locking the gates.

Action: Draft communication for social media (JB/MP)

Action: Add to agenda for AGM (JB)

9. Fundraising update

Ticket sales in respect of the 3PS event on 17 June 2023 have been poor. All committee members undertook to do everything possible to promote sales in the last two weeks before the event. Support is also required in respect of the event itself (e.g. bar duties, setting up, raffle prizes, door-management and raffle ticket sales).

- a. MP and JB will be setting up the PA, sound-checking and performing so will be unable to take on the bar duties.
- b. KB volunteered to run the bar, which will remain open throughout the event (around 3 hours from door-opening). Note that, for folk nights, we usually have two people running the bar which is only open prior to the performance

and during the interval. Additional volunteers are required.

Action: IR to check if Nick Carter is able to help with the bar duties

Action: All trustees to try to secure additional support

Action: IR and PP to source raffle prizes

Action: Elaine and JacB to undertake door-management and sell raffle tickets

Action: All trustees to actively promote sale of tickets

Tickets are selling well through the folk club for the Chris Leslie event.

10. Folk Night Bar Duties

- a. 17 June 2023 - KB (3PS fundraiser)
- b. 24 June 2023 - IR & BR (Ascott Martyrs – starts at 7pm)
- c. 8 July 2023 - JB and JacB (Chris Leslie fundraiser)
- d. 2 September 2023
- e. 7 October 2023 - SG & NC
- f. 25 November 2023
- g. 16 December 2023

11. AOB

There was a lengthy debate concerning the storage space available at Tiddy Hall and the proliferation of random items cluttering the building. The following key points emerged:

- a. The storage room is now well-ordered, allowing access to electricity meters.
- b. The storage room and loft space are currently used exclusively by the pre-school. There is no room for any Tiddy Hall equipment.
- c. Pre-school equipment can also be found in the kitchen, the bar area and the stock room on the first floor. Further pre-school equipment (two sheds and various items for outdoor play) can be found outside the main hall, in a dedicated play area.
- d. The stock room contains pre-school equipment and Parish Council equipment in addition to Tiddy Hall bar stocks.
- e. The committee room contains village shop and Tiddy Hall equipment.
- f. The landing space on the first floor resembles a dumping ground with old plastic chairs and a wheelchair stored there.
- g. Tiddy Hall equipment (tables and chairs) is currently stored in the main hall, either side of the stage.

PP advised that all of the pre-school equipment in the storage room is current and none of it is obsolete.

MP advised that it was often necessary to supplement the stock of new chairs with some of the old plastic chairs to accommodate the audiences now supporting the folk nights. The old plastic chairs were, in fact, retrieved from Roger Shepherd's barn where they had been stored when the new chairs were purchased. The storage of

the old plastic chairs on the first floor is unacceptable from a health and safety perspective and the chairs themselves are ugly and uncomfortable. MP confirmed that the folk club would support the purchase of additional new chairs, funding the cost of the first 30 additional chairs. There is, however, no space available to store any additional chairs.

MP suggested that a shed could be purchased at modest cost for the storage of Tiddy Hall tables, creating enough space to store additional chairs. It was noted, however, that this in effect would mean that Tiddy Hall would be funding additional space outside the building for storing its own equipment while all of the storage space inside the building was being used for storing pre-school equipment. Given that pre-school do not pay for storage space, the appropriateness of this solution was questioned. In any event, there is insufficient space immediately adjacent to the building for a shed of suitable size. An alternative, more equitable solution is required. Even if we were to persist with the use of the old plastic chairs, the current situation, in which they are stored on the first-floor landing, is untenable.

It was agreed that a day would be set aside for an audit of all equipment, wherever currently stored, with a view to getting rid of obsolete items and rearranging storage space as best we can bearing in mind the above-mentioned constraints. All trustees will be asked to take part in the exercise. We will also ask the village shop and the Parish Council to get involved. This will be scheduled for the end of July/early August.

Action: Consider alternative storage solutions to free-up space for Tiddy Hall equipment (all)

Action: Schedule a date for the tidy-up exercise (JB)

The composition of the committee was discussed. With HM moving house, we will need a new treasurer. In addition, one or two other long-standing trustees may be considering standing down after many years of dedicated service. We therefore need a number of new trustees to join the committee.

Action: Draft communication for notice boards and social media inviting volunteers to become trustees (IR)

12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 19 July 2023. This will be the AGM, so the meeting will be split into two parts:

- a. At 7pm, a meeting of trustees will take place.
- b. At 7:30pm, the meeting will be opened up to all village residents. An invitation will be placed on the village noticeboards and on social media.

Action: JB to draft agenda for public AGM

13. Summary of Actions Agreed

- a. SG to follow up with BC regarding a music event in 2024.
- b. PP to follow up with Chipping Norton Glass regarding the refitting of the

doors.

- c. HM to liaise with Barclays regarding the opening of a trustees account to replace the current business accounts.
- d. JB/MP to draft communication regarding the car park.
- e. JB to add the issues concerning the car park to the AGM agenda for discussion in open forum.
- f. IR to check if Nick Carter is able to help with the bar duties in respect of the 3PS fundraiser event.
- g. All trustees to try to secure additional resources (volunteers) to support the 3PS fundraiser event.
- h. IR and PP to source raffle prizes for the 3PS fundraiser event.
- i. Elaine and JacB to undertake door-management and sell raffle tickets at the 3PS fundraiser event.
- j. All trustees to actively promote sale of tickets to the 3PS fundraiser event.
- k. All trustees to consider alternative storage solutions to free-up space for Tiddy Hall equipment.
- l. JB to schedule a date for the tidy-up exercise.
- m. IR to draft communication for notice boards and social media inviting volunteers to become trustees (including treasurer).
- n. JB to draft agenda for public AGM.