

PENTON RECREATION COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

Penton Recreational Centre AGM 6th April 2016

Present

Trustees: Louis Atkinson

Committee:

Vernon Needham (VN) Chair

Joan Patterson (JP) Minutes Secretary Alan Twigg (AT) Treasurer & Tennis Club

Carol Rasey (CR)

David Porter (DP) David Howard (DH) Penton Cricket Club

Anna Smith (ASm) Village Hall Paul Coulson

In Attendance:

Heather Carrick, Jane and Patrick Midgely, Paul Fraser, Eleanor Porter, Mike and Carol Pooley, Hugh Burden

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all attendees

2. Apologies for Absence:

John & Anne Isherwood, Rodney Bennett, Paul Booth, Rod & Lois Eggington, Martin Smith, Neville Carrick, Clive Bell, Wendy Sinclair, Sue Twigg, Nanette Colbourne, Andrew Thompson, Avril Stubbs

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The meeting agreed that the minutes of the last meeting on 1st April 2015 should be signed.

4. Matters arising:

All items raised at the 2015 AGM have been concluded during the year.

5. Chairman's report:

This is my second Chair's Report and I am pleased to be able to report general good health of the Committee's remit: its stewardship of the Village Hall and playing field, including the cricket ground, tennis courts and playpark, and its organisation of village events. However, we are nearing 'crunch point' with the maintenance issue of the main hall floor in the south end extension, more of which later.

We continue to have a very committed team, and special thanks to Anna for all her work managing bookings and the hall in general, and also to Martin, who though not formally on the committee, shares Anna's work and is always involved in maintenance and supervision of the premises. Joan continues as our very capable and efficient minutes secretary, Neville as Vice-Chair, and Alan keeps his beady financial eye on us. All members of the committee bring their own perspective: David his experience and wisdom, (and we have to discourage him from too much working at heights on maintenance days, with a nod to H&S), Carol her long experience, knowledge of, and dedication to the village, Paul Booth and Neville their hard work particularly on maintenance. If ever any equipment or kit is needed, Paul seems to be able to provide or source it!

Very sadly, everyone will be aware of the tragic and sudden loss of Lorna Nias last year. We recognise, and thank her for, her enormous contribution to village life, and PRC in particular, over so many years. We wish her family all the best, remembering that for them the sense of loss does not reduce.

On a more cheerful note, we have welcomed Paul Coulson to the committee, who brings a very clear administrative brain and extensive knowledge of local government. Andrew Thompson, three years in the village, has expressed an interest in joining us, work commitments and young family permitting.

Unfortunately we have also lost Ian McHenry recently from the committee: his recent change of job includes shift work and diary commitments which are incompatible with membership. I have assured him he will be welcome back if his circumstances change again.

Thank you also to the Trustees who continue to support the committee and provide advice and counsel ad hoc.

The Cricket Club continue to thrive and we congratulate them on last season's achievement. They continue to maintain the field - an arrangement that is an improvement on the previous (to 2014) TVBC contract. The Tennis Club continues to thrive in terms of activity and numbers, but has been struggling with recruitment of a secure committee.

PENTON RECREATION COMMITTEE

We are grateful to those non-committee helpers who have rolled up sleeves and mucked in on maintenance days. These have included grounds maintenance and tree lopping at the hall, decoration of the small hall and a variety of interior tasks. There has also been maintenance on the pavilion. All of these have been DIY, keeping our costs down. We have also had the main hall decorated under contract: all these activities have improved the facilities relative to a year ago.

Unfortunately the longstanding damp flooring problem of the south end of the main hall continues: a survey of 22/1/16 recommends treating the area as a basement for damp-proofing purposes, it being lower than the outside ground. The work required will involve lifting the floor, creating what might best be described as a paddling pool (but to keep water out, not in!), and relaying the floor. We currently have tenders for this work, ranging from £5.3K to £10.6K. I learnt yesterday that a fourth has declined the job, with a detailed description of why he doubts the survey recommendations will provide a permanent solution, so we are playing 'snakes and ladders'. With some more exploratory work with this contractor and the engineering company that provided the survey, we should be in a position to have a revised tendering process. I am taking advice from PMPC Parish Clerk regarding grant applications. We also have an estimate for £540 to replace approximately 100 broken roof tiles. Anticipated funds raised by this year's village fete will be very welcome!

The hall has continued to host private functions, weekly table tennis, art group, pilates, sugarcraft, and coffee mornings. Penton Players' WW1 production was a great success and played to full houses. The summer party with band 'Watching Wallace' and hog roast was very successful and we have had full skittles and quiz evenings, among other events. Rodney Bennett again kindly hosted the annual firework party at Bluebell Farm, which was exceptionally well attended last year, and was blessed by a dry p.m., after a damp a.m.

This year our main focus of events activity is on the **Fete** on 3rd July, which promises to be a great event. There is a separate committee for this with PRC and PCC members in collaboration: Paul Booth is working immensely hard leading this and we have a large programme of arena events and stalls.

So now it is request time! We need new members to strengthen the committee, please, and welcome any offers of practical help. We also need everyone to spread the word and encourage support of village and hall events, both to enhance village life and to raise more funds for facilities maintenance and improvement. Although we maintain funds in balance due to careful husbandry we are challenged to improve facilities and our reserve against potential liabilities is not huge. Please encourage help and attendance for the fete and bring friends and relatives to join the fun and make the event a real success.

6. Financial report:

Alan Twigg presented the accounts for the year and gave the following report:

As you can see from the accounts, 2015 was, like 2014, not a successful year financially for PRC with total income not fully covering expenditure – a shortfall of £1357.09. The main reason for this was another significant fall in hall lettings which are down by around a third compared to a few years ago. On a more positive note the fireworks evening was a great success with record attendance. The hog roast provided a useful addition to funds and we continue to enjoy helpful donations from the two parish councils. The other item of income I want to draw your attention to relates to donations in memory of Lorna Nias. As you know, the village donated very generously to both the church and the village hall in her memory and the family are considering how best to commemorate her here at the hall. In the meantime, as you can see from the bottom right hand corner of the account we are keeping the money relating to the memorial fund segregated from the remainder of PRC's funds.

Turning to expenditure, the costs of running the village hall were higher than in 2014 solely due to a massive increase in insurance costs. Our insurer considered we are close enough to the pond/river to constitute an extra risk and would not consider logic such as the hall has never flooded in living memory. I am pleased to say our broker managed to find an alternative insurer for 2016 at significantly lower cost, albeit well above 2014 levels. The major maintenance cost during the year was repainting this hall as well as the small one, the former professionally and with an eye to saving costs, the latter was done by members of the committee.

Looking forward to 2016, we are expecting a further drop in hall lettings so that lettings will continue to be significantly lower than expenditure. Of even greater concern is the work we are going to have to undertake to solve the damp problem at the far end of the hall. With that in mind you can see we decided during 2015 to close our

PENTON RECREATION COMMITTEE

account with Scottish Widows, which was paying very modest interest, and put the money into our current account. In partnership with the church we are planning what I am sure will be a highly successful fete the proceeds of which will hopefully meet a significant part of the cost of the work.

Thanks are due once again to Amanda Cavanagh for auditing the accounts so efficiently.

Louis Atkinson proposed that the accounts should be adopted. This was seconded by Patrick Midgley and agreed by the meeting.

7. Election of Officers

No proposals for changes to the committee have been received. Patrick Midgley proposed that the Committee continue as currently constituted. This was seconded by Louis Atkinson and agreed by the meeting.

Committee:

Vernon Needham (VN) Chair	Neville Carrick (NC) Vice Chair & Penton Players
Joan Patterson (JP) Minutes Secretary	Alan Twigg (AT) Treasurer & Tennis Club
Paul Booth (PB) Village	David Howard (DH) Penton Cricket Club
Ian McHenry (IM) Village	Lorna Nias (LN) Village
David Porter (DP) Village	Carol Rasey (CR) Village
Anna Smith (ASm) Village Hall	

8. 2016 Fete

It was reported that activities toward providing a successful Fete to be held on July 3rd 2016 were well underway with more than 100 helpers identified.

9. Questions and comments from the meeting:

- Patrick Midgley suggested that the PRC should target local business with an objective of increasing the level of Hall lettings. The Chairman replied that this would be progressed through the year.
- Re-introduce Moviola. Initially this was a successful event but is also time consuming and subject to films of general interest being available. Further consideration to be given to this subject to someone being available to investigate and run

Louis Atkinson thanked the committee on behalf of the Trustees for their hard work.

The Chairman thanked the Trustees for their interest and support and asked that Paul Fraser passed on thanks to Nanette Colbourne for all her support.