

Beckford Community Village Hall

The hall committee held its regular monthly meeting on Monday November 23.

Discussion had been scheduled for this meeting on the future of the doctors' surgery at the hall, and John Lodge, a former chairman of Trustees, attended to review this matter. John gave a brief history of the provision of surgery facilities in Beckford, going back to the 1960s, when a subsidiary surgery to the main surgery in Kemerton was established. This was closed in the late 1960s, due to the poor working conditions. Following the opening of a new surgery in Bredon in 1980, an extension to the Beckford Village Hall was constructed, funded by money raised in the village, in order for surgeries to be run at Beckford. The Bredon Hill practice now pay a quarterly rental to BCVH Ltd for the use of the surgery. In recent years John Lodge had taken on the role of liaison with the practice in respect of the facilities at Beckford.

An article from the Bredon practice was circulated, to be published in the December Parish magazine. It stated that the practice had applied to the Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group for permission to close the Beckford surgery, and inviting comments. This matter was discussed at some length, with concern expressed at the lack of prior consultation (including with the Parish Council, which had not been informed on this matter), the short time available for comment (the time limit was December 9, while the magazine was not to be published until December 4), as well as concern at the potential loss of a service of long standing which is seen as very valuable to the village and to surrounding villages. It was decided to send a letter to the practice covering the above points.

It is planned to install a new notice board at the hall, the present one (on the back of the oil tank store) being too small and badly located. Suggestions (on design, size, location) will be welcome! The new CCTV system is working, but one of the six cameras was not recording properly, and the supplier will be called out to check it under guarantee. We need to start thinking about alternative sources of income, and alternative uses for the room, if the surgery closure goes ahead: again, suggestions will be welcome.

The swings in the children's play area have been repaired and are back in action. We are most grateful to the volunteers (Keith Yates, with assistance from Richard Kellett) who tackled this for us, thereby saving us some £1100 over the quoted cost for a commercial repair.

The base for the new Parish Council grit container was being prepared at the end of the car park, and a digger was on the site. Some problems were anticipated in getting the container on to the site from the road

The next meeting will be on Monday January 25 2016.

Graham Galer
Secretary BCVH Ltd.