

Beckford Community Village Hall

The committee held a regular monthly meeting on April 25th, there having been no meeting in March due to Easter.

Users who in the past have suffered on the maroon chairs in the Committee Room will be pleased to hear that they are now being enjoyed by members of the Avonvale Model Engineering Society.

The BCVH Treasurers Report for the Year ending 31st March 2016 showed that at year end we held £3,073 in Restricted Funds, £28,104 in Unrestricted funds, thus totalling £31,177. Our funds increased by almost £7000 this year. A significant increase came from hire of the field, and £2373 was raised or donated for the new/extended/refurbished hall project. Expenditure was well down due to reduction in oil prices, hardly any repairs and maintenance, and that we no longer lease the CCTV system. The field will be very busy this year with eight caravan clubs booked up. These provide a very good income. The doctor's surgery continues to pay rent and no notice has yet been received otherwise.

Hall refurbishment/extension: although outline plans have been in place for at least a year, nothing concrete has been done apart from repairing the drains. It was agreed that we now need to develop an action plan. Priorities must be the roof, insulation and an upgrade to the main hall. These actions alone will greatly improve the warmth and comfort of the hall, which is necessary to attract new bookings. Other areas can be tackled when we have the funds. If we go for just refurbishment, not extensions, then the cost will be around £170,000. Should grants/donations be more generous than we expect then we could do the proposed extension as well, which would bring the total to just under £300,000. Or, we could set our sights at just doing the refurbishment and think about extending at a future date. It was felt very important that commitment from the village should be shown, and the best way to get this would be to do a survey setting out the four options of New, Extend, Refurbish or Do Nothing. A four-person Survey Subcommittee was set up, and enquiries would be made to see if there was any interest from new residents to the village.

We should first think about the roof. An up to date survey by a professional Structural Engineer is now required, since the previous survey was not detailed enough and is now out of date. The Structural Report will cost us £3000 to £4000 but is necessary so that a building surveyor can then price the work accurately. Quotations will be sought for this.

It was noted that the footballers' container is still in the wrong place. It should be behind the Play Area hedge, where the hedge has been left higher to conceal it. This issue is proving difficult to resolve. It was also noted that the area behind the croquet garage, presently full of white plastic chairs and general items, could be tidied up. This should resolve itself once the new wooden clubhouse is up and running in its permanent position. The garage currently contains the croquet mowing equipment.

The boiler in the kitchen has been repaired, having broken down at Easter, demanding emergency repairs and a new control panel. The Elsan in the store cupboard also broke down at Easter and has since been repaired.

The next meeting will be on Monday May 23rd.

Graham Galer
BCVH Secretary