

Minutes of Meeting of Village Society held at Hawthorn Cottage, 14th January 2009

Present: David Theoff (Chairman), Ollie Chapman, John Simpson, Duncan Scott, Alan Coller, Patricia Simpson, Jan Rudolph

Apologies for absence were received from: Louise Perryman, Karen Wright, Pip Hazelton, Lorna Listbrain, Roger Ayling

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous meeting.

Matters Arising

Charity Commission – DS confirmed he had contacted the Charity Commission to start the process for the Village Society to be registered as a charity.

Programme of Money Raising Events

DS said he had already tentatively arranged a date with a musical quartet for an afternoon of classical music to take place in his garden at Forstal House in July (possibly 19th or 26th).

At the December meeting a Valentine's Dance had been suggested, but it was realised there was too little time to organise this now, April (18th or 25th) would give more time to arrange it. Louise to be asked to contact Goosebumps.

Beating of the Bounds had been suggested for April, but will now be arranged for Autumn, to coincide with Rogation Sunday.

P and JS suggested a Coffee Morning and Plant Sale to be held either at Village Hall or Elmstone Court depending on the weather, (possible date 23rd May). This suggestion depends on success with plant raising this season.

JR would like to host a charity cricket match to celebrate her retirement, in June.

Steam Rally – the Society would like to make a contribution to activities at the Steam Rally, Lorna had suggested organising a Barn Dance, to be further discussed with Lorna.

School Fete – PS undertook to contact Barry Doggett, Chairman of Governors to request the use of the Village hall to mount an Art Exhibition and provide teas at the Fete. AC volunteered to bring his sons racing car to exhibit.

Village Society.

DT had been concerned about a lack of direction so far, and the need to have objectives in view, and particularly to ensure that when individual members made presentations to other organisations, that there was continuity with the information passed on. After discussion of the need to make sure all contacts

emphasised that our aims were inclusive, connective and diplomatic, a further meeting of the sub committee was planned for Thursday 22nd January at Forstal House, to plan a crib sheet for presentations and to re-write the letter to other organisations.

The formation of a Local History Project was discussed and it was agreed this could be a key subject for the presentation to the WI on 11th February, when JR, PS and RA will outline the aims of the society and how it can help other organisations, and Jan will then introduce the Local History Project to WI members, followed by a presentation on material so far collected in the Archive by Roger, with photographs and film. Roger will request further donations of photographs and film. JR suggested that in future we could request a Film Show by South Eastern Film Archive as a money raising activity.

Young Persons Action Plan

PS reported that she and Frank Pinnington, Parish Clerk, had attended a meeting at Dover District Council Offices to discuss funding for the proposed joint project with Ash and Wingham to recruit three part time youth workers to run youth clubs in all three villages. The meeting had decided to create an umbrella group called East Stour and Little Ashstone Youth Project and put in a joint request for a grant from the Colyer Ferguson Fund to set this up.

Village Hall Refurbishment

JS reported he was expecting to receive the draft plans from 3 architects by Friday 23rd January. A meeting to recruit a jury and progress the plan would take place early in February. In the meantime, there were plans for JS and AC to recruit a working party to grub up old trees and saplings along the south boundary of the recreation ground, and they were awaiting a decision from the village hall committee to approve a quotation for replacement windows in the village hall.

Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be published at the end of March and contributions were requested. There was some discussion on the quality of the printing, that is, should we continue to request sponsors to fund the high quality print, or to fund cheaper black and white printing, as we know we will be seeking donations for the village hall rebuilding.

Speed Watch

OC and Frank Pinnington were due to meet with KCC Highways to discuss speeding by vehicles through the village. PC Wayne Wright had promised a traffic survey to track speeding through the village.

Neighbourhood Watch

DT said he needed more volunteers and JR and DS volunteered to cover Santon Lane and The Forstal respectively. Notices requesting more volunteers will be placed in the Butchers shop and the Plant Nursery. Notices had been placed around the village publicising Police Surgery meetings in the Village Hall on 15th and 26th January with PC Wayne Wright.

Any Other Business

DS had sent Frank Pinnington a copy of the LDF consultation document, (this had previously been circulated to Parish Council members) requesting the Parish Council to write to DDC criticising the document for its over emphasis on urban areas and lack of consideration to rural areas. OC reported that the Parish Council has still not been informed of a date for a Housing Needs Survey to be conducted, and confirmed that Preston does have "Village" status in DDC Local Development Framework document, (this had previously been unclear).

DS further reported he had written to the office of Hazel Blears on 2nd December 2008, in relation to the still unresolved problem of DDC's recognition of the adoption of VDS documents in the Local Development Framework, but had so far received no reply from Ms Blears and was proposing to write a further letter.

OC requested some spare copies of the VDS publication should be given to Frank Pinnington, and reported that the Rights of Way map, which was ordered by the Parish Council some months ago is about to be erected next to the Parish Notice Board at The Green.

DT reported that Preston's VDS document has been featured in a Community Led Plan Case Study published by ACRK. He asked for others to accompany him to the Open Day at ACRK's new offices at Brabourne on 26th January. PS, JS and JR will attend with DT.

The meeting thanked Jan for her hospitality.

Next meeting

4th February 2009 (this change to first week in month is because PS, JR and RA will be addressing WI on 11th February)