

Aberffraw Village Hall Management Committee

MINUTES

Meeting: 10th March 2021 (7.00pm) via Zoom

Present: M.Mahon (Chair), T.Graham (Vice Chair), E.Todd (Secretary), G.Mahon (Treasurer),
H.Williams, S.Goodgroves, A.Owen

Apologies: None

Absences: None

Minutes of previous Meeting: 10th February 2021 - Approved

1. Matters Arising: *Items not covered by headings below*

Action points 1-3 – CC letter #9 – The Community Council replied that they were not willing to provide us with a copy of the Insurance Policy for the Hall, therefore a request was sent to the Clerk (26/02/2021) requesting details of the Public Liability Information within the insurance for display in the Hall. The insurers were also telephoned as to the legal aspects of displaying this information. Noted: that the above written request included notification that the Aberffraw Community Defibrillator requires new pads for purchase by the CC and details and costs were provided. In addition, a reminder of the lack of replies to other matters over the past 6 months was included. Reply from CC – this communication would be discussed at the March CC meeting.

2. Chairperson's Report: Grants – a) Current Comic Relief & Community Chest grants were not fully spent due to Covid lockdowns b) Future – Calor Gas grants were now available for application.

3. Vice-Chairperson's Report: Nothing to report

4. Treasurers' Report: Monthly Expenditure: water, electricity, December cleaning, decorating materials.

5. Secretary's Report: Bookings – a provisional enquiry for a Wedding Reception in 2022 was received.

6. Building/Maintenance: Kitchen Painting by Ben & Molly was now well underway

7. Reports from Regular User Representatives: None

8. Publicity: No Grapevine or Facebook updates. Website updated – Agenda/Minutes

9. Future Events: Pencilled in but to be discussed when exit from Lockdown is clearer

10. Any Other Business: Community Council (CC) solicitor's letter to us (VHMC).
A long discussion and recap of recent events was held.

10.1. It was noted that without any pre-warning or suggestion of problems, or relevant CC Minutes, the CC requested (1/3/2021) by Solicitor that we hand over to them all keys, documents, records, audits, accounts, bank details, deposit book, cheque book, debit/credit cards, statements and equipment relating to the administration of the Hall by 4pm 8/3/2021. No mention was made of the future intention of the CC in this matter.

10.2. It was also stated that the Conveyancing Deeds of 1965 refer to the CC as the Trustee of the Charity relating to the Hall. This is **incorrect** – Page 2 Clause 1 (2) clearly states ... “be administered in conformity with the provisions of this Deed under the title of the Aberffraw Village Hall by the committee of Management hereinafter constituted, who shall be the administering trustees thereof”.

10.3. As it is quite clear from 10.2 and no good reason was given in 10.1 our reply would be to ask for clarification and explanation prior to any possible divergence from our (Village Hall Management Committee) duties as the legally responsible managing trustees of the charity. Action: Chair discuss with committee members and to write to solicitor and telephone CC Acting Chair to discuss. Also, to raise ongoing (>6 months) problems of inter-committee communication as we suspect the CC’s unwillingness to reply to our communications may be related to this matter. Further discussion is to be held at the present meeting.

10.4. Without response to the above Action, on 8/3/2021 the CC Acting Chair and Clerk changed the locks on the Village Hall main doors, denying us access for safety maintenance and ongoing redecorating, they also placed accusatory notices on the public noticeboard and again referring to their misinterpretation of the 1965 Deeds claimed to have disbanded our committee. Action: Chair, discussed with committee members, wrote second reply to Solicitors and informed Anglesey County Councillors of these unreasonable and unjustified actions.

10.5. Noted that our VHMC Chair had updated the Charity Commission website with contact details for the Aberffraw Village Hall Management Committee as Trustees, himself as Contact (replacing previous contact VHMC Treasurer J Owens as charity accounts submitter), and listed all members of VHMC committee as trustees in the last two annual accounts returns (2019, 2020) on their website. In addition, on the assumption that the CC may be property or custodian trustees, CC members were listed as trustees on the returns. It is noted that the trustee position was pointed out to the CC at their Zoom meeting in September by the VHMC Chair.

10.6. At the present meeting the above was discussed. Information was made available from several reputable UK sources concerning Village Halls, Charities, Trustees etc. which suggests that in most cases a Village Hall Charity has a Management Committee which administers the charity and its members are the responsible Charity Trustees, in addition Parish or Community Councils often hold the Custodial Trusteeship of the property but play no role in the running of the charity.

10.7. It was agreed that it would be a dereliction of our legal duties to hand over the requested material until the above matters were cleared up. Action: we will await reply from the CC solicitor’s, we will make further enquiries into the matter, and we will continue to administer the Hall management and finances for the benefit of the inhabitants of Aberffraw and surrounds. We also expect an apology from the CC for its recent unfounded actions and comments, including its erroneous allegations concerning VAT in August 2020 (currently under investigation by the Welsh Audit Office), and not carrying out ‘minuted’ CC actions in September and October 2020 concerning a joint meeting and insurance matters.

Date of Next Meeting:

14th April 2021, 7pm