

**DOWN ST MARY VILLAGE HALL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**Present:** Alan Clarke, Tessa Pluck, Denise Appleyard, Nigel Fidock, Anthony Martin, Tom Samson and Christine Tonkin

**Apologies:** Audrey Cook and Jude Milton

**Minutes:** The minutes of the Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 were shared, read and agreed. Tom Samson requested that the Minutes and Agenda be sent out prior to the meeting so that they can be perused before the meeting.

**Matters Arising:** Tessa informed the Committee that the clock has arrived and has been checked that it is in working order. The box housing for the clock is being mended by the carpenter in Coplestone. Tessa has found a photograph of the original clock being installed which shows the colours in which they need to be painted. Alan requested that Tom scan the photograph so that a A4 copy could be put in the Village Hall. The housing to be varnished in boat varnish and the red and white paint needs to be hardy to avoid having to re-paint it in a short space of time. Tessa and Denise to carry out the painting.

Tessa has contacted the roofer in the Village about repairing the roof but he does not want to do it as he is too busy. Nigel suggested Michael Tapp who is carrying out work on the Church to see if he will carry out the work. Nigel to contact him.

Denise contacted the Handyman she knows and he charges £15 per hour without materials to carry out the damp proofing etc. After considerable discussion and a unanimous vote, it was decided to go with Martin Weeks as his price was for labour and materials. Tessa to contact him. The Decorator contacted has no scaffolding so will be unable to carry out the work. Another decorator needs to be found.

**Chairman's Report:** On the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 Alan, Tom and Anthony welcomed Su Kaye of Devon Communities to the Hall. They are currently carrying out a survey of Devon Village Halls with funding support from Devon Public Health and DEFRA. They are interested in whether Halls can be developed into Community hubs. Devon Communities have a website and members can promote their Halls by belonging to the organisation.

She looked at our facilities, financial situation, type of events that are organised and how we can become a larger part of the Community to combat loneliness and social deprivation.

One area of concern was that we have no written evidence of health, safety and accessibility audits. We also have no broadband and she has since sent an email on this subject. We also discussed which internet providers cover Down St. Mary which is Openreach. Also discussed was an internet provider that is looking to serve more Communities and is looking for expressions of interest. The Company is Wildernet. I feel this is worth exploring to see what they can do for Down St. Mary.

After considerable discussion, it was decided to join Devon Communities at a cost of £24 per annum. Tom felt that having internet into the Village Hall would broaden our horizons, i.e. computer classes etc. The Committee were worried about the regular financial implications of having internet into the Village Hall, therefore, I will investigate the possible costs and report back to the Committee. Also suggested was a coffee morning which has already been discussed by the Committee. This could be organised as and when members of the Committee were available to run it. It was proposed to carry out a Risk Assessment, install an Accident Book and issue Health & Safety Guidelines.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nigel supplied an up to date Treasurer's Report for the period 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 to the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.  
Tessa gave Nigel £30 for Pilates rental and £50 for rental for Basket Making.

**Summer Fayre:** The Summer Fayre made a profit of £776.03 which was a good result considering the weather. It was a considerable challenge this year but everybody's hard work paid off. Tessa has sent thank you letters to all our helpers and everybody that donated draw prizes and goods.

Unfortunately, the marquee blew down in the winds so as not being able to be repaired Tessa instructed to dispose of it.

**Future Events:** Curry & Quiz night to be held on the 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2023. It was decided to charge £10 a ticket. The format to be the same with dietary needs to be taken into account when selling the tickets.

Many thanks to Dave Cooper who is going to produce posters, fliers and tickets. Alan to obtain licence. Committee to give draw prizes and Denise said we already have some that were over from the Summer Fayre.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 30<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2023**