

**DOWN ST MARY VILLAGE HALL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON**  
**MONDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2024**

- Present:** Alan Clarke, Tessa Pluck, Anthony Martin, Nigel Fidock, Tom Samson, Christine Tonkin and Jude Milton
- Apologies:** Denise Appleyard and Audrey Cook
- Minutes:** The minutes of the Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 were shared, read and agreed.
- Matters Arising:** The box housing for the clock has been mended by the Carpenter. Tessa informed the Committee that it now needs staining and varnishing and it will then be complete and ready to be put up. Tessa to see whether the electrician's tower will be big enough to do the installation. Nigel suggested that if it was not, we could ask Dave Vennelle if we could use his cherry picker. Tessa to liaise with the electrician.
- Chairman's Report:** Alan thanked the Committee for their hard work for the Christmas event.
- Treasurer's Report:** Nigel supplied an up to date Treasurers Report for the period 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2023 to the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.
- Tessa gave Nigel £37.50 for Pilates. Rhonda, the cleaner, gave a bill for £21.88, Tessa to pay her. The Old Mill Carpentry gave a bill for £150 for work on the clock box. Tessa gave a bill for £25.29 for staining materials for the clock box.
- Christmas Event:** The Christmas Event was discussed in detail. The Christmas event made a profit of £366.11. The overall opinion of the Committee was that the Christmas event needs to be divided, i.e. children appear not to mix with adults. It was suggested that maybe to do a Christmas party for the children next year and a separate event for the adults either at Christmas or on an alternative date. Tom suggested we could get an entertainer but that would be dependent on cost. As there were a lot of young children, Tessa and Jude questioned whether that was needed as they seemed to just like running around and playing with balloons. Jude suggested organising games etc. and it was deemed necessary to establish the ages of the children who would attend in order to make sure we had enough Father Christmas presents for the right age groups. Nigel felt that the size of the hampers was too great and felt that it would be better to have more prizes, therefore, more winners. The people that won the main hamper donated it to charity. The Committee were in agreement that next year there needed to be more prizes.

**Future Events:**

Jude suggested that she and Audrey organise a Bingo night. This was agreed by the Committee and a potential date of Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 was proposed. Jude to check whether the equipment we could borrow would be available for that date.

Jude proposed that we organise a Halloween party for the children on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 as we had not done one for a few years and we have some Halloween plates and decorations in stock.

The Summer Fayre was discussed in detail and it was decided that due to the uncertainty with regards to the Green being cut and the planting of wild flowers and also the amount of work involved in organising it, it was decided not to hold one this year. A lot of other villages organise their Summer Fayres on alternative years so the situation will be reviewed next year.

Alan has been approached by Bob Barratt who is a poet/singer who travels to Village Halls entertaining. His cost is £150 and Alan to find out if that includes travelling costs. The Committee thought that this was a good idea to replace the Summer Fayre. Alan to find out what available dates he has. The subject of whether a podium was needed was discussed and it was suggested we could make one or Anthony suggested buying one. This to be discussed after Alan ascertains Bob Barratt's requirements.

Tom said he and his wife, Frances, were prepared to organise a monthly coffee morning starting at 10.30 a.m. until 12. Tom is producing a flyer to circulate and is going to put it on the Down St. Mary Community Group website. The dates proposed were 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2<sup>nd</sup> March and the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 to see whether it will be supported by the Village and then a decision will be made as to whether to make it a monthly event. Tom to let the Committee know if they want other cakes etc.

It is proposed to hold a Skittle Evening in the Autumn.

**Any Other Business:** None.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:****12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2024 AT 7.30 P.M**



