

Battle Memorial Hall
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Email battlememorialhall@outlook.com Charity No 305165

Management Committee meeting – Monday 25th April 2022

Committee members present:

Mike Clarke (MC), Peter Mills (PM), Shirley Lewis (SL), Gary Dunk (GD), Peter Sherwood (PS), Marilyn Waughman (MW), Simon Alexander (SA), Jill Gyngell (JG) and Rob Gee (RG).

1 Apologies for absence: Margaret Emeleus (ME), Brian Grainger (BG) and Margaret Mills (MM)

MC reported the very sad news that Robert Emeleus had passed away. All present spent a few moments in silent tribute to remember his huge contribution to the life of the community, including the Memorial Hall, particularly during his period as Chairman.

2 Disclosure of Interest - None

3 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28th March 2022. The minutes had been circulated and were signed as a true record.

4 Matters arising from previous meetings

MC confirmed that the PAT testing equipment had been purchased and that, following all necessary checks having been carried out, a clean bill of health had been established.

5 Financial Report

PM gave a brief oral report on activity since the beginning of the new financial year. Main items were the latest utility bills totalling £1163, hire charge income of £2768 and Gift Aid of £1053. Bank balances remain at about £16,000.

A discussion followed about the way forward regarding the increasing rate of utility costs. It was accepted that, having recently agreed a new contract, the Hall is committed to those terms for the time being. The optimum solution is to adopt a more efficient approach which can best be achieved by replacing the gas boiler. In any event, as reported at previous meetings, this may become a necessity as the boiler nears the end of its natural life. However, the estimated cost of about £15,000 would be a challenge in terms of funding which is way beyond the Hall's current capacity. Launching an appeal was thought to be a sensible start, perhaps through the Crowd Funding mechanism. MC and PM will pursue. Although not directly linked to any appeal, JG agreed to explore how the Hall and its facilities could be promoted through the Town Council's welcome pack for new residents.

6 Repairs and maintenance

There had been no major problems but MC was thanked for attending to a range of day to day matters including unblocking the kitchen sink, some lighting issues, adjusting the kitchen boiler and resolving an Internet speed problem.

7 Bookings

PM reported, as before, that the situation is settling down with a combination of regular users and one-off bookings. The latter includes an enquiry by the pianist, Mike Hatchard, mentioned at the meeting on 13th December last, who is considering a Sunday afternoon concert.

8 Parish Assembly

With the help of the Hall Manager, PM had produced a series of photographs for display highlighting the variety of activities which take place at the Hall. He thanked SL and RG for their support in managing the Hall stand. Unfortunately attendance at this "Family Event" part of the Assembly had been disappointing so there was little opportunity to promote the Hall.

At the main part of the Assembly, MC had been presented with the Town Council's annual Community Award which recognised not only his role at the Hall but his contribution to a wide range of other community activities. MC was congratulated for achieving this well deserved award.

JG invited feedback on the event as a whole and MC, SL, RG and PM offered their *personal* thoughts and comments

9 Film Nights

GD said that, after a slow start, tickets for Mothering Sunday had gone quite well. The signs are that Belfast will attract a good audience with over 70 tickets already sold. He has confirmed with British Design Made that, with the necessary guidance, card payments will be acceptable

10 Any other business

SA reported changes to the parking regime at Battle Abbey aimed at overcoming the blocking of spaces by those who become EH members but only to take advantage of free parking unrelated to a visit to the Abbey. In future such parking will be limited to a period of 6 hours.

MC said that enquiries had been made by groups wishing to borrow the Hall tables for their Jubilee events. Although the Hall had tried to be helpful in the past for more limited activities, even those had sometimes resulted in damage to the tables. It was therefore agreed that, in future, requests for all such loans should be declined. However, the more robust tables stored in the basement could be offered provided the organiser takes clear responsibility for arranging collection and return.

11 Date of next meeting – 30th May 2022.