

**Meeting of the Ashampstead Recreational Trust
held in Ashampstead Village Hall
on 24th July 2023 at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present: John George (chair), Caroline Butler, Emma Goodman, Graham Light, Paula Walton, Grant Tuff, Trudi Butcher. Les Billing (as a member of the public)

1. Apologies for Absence:

James Hole and James Bartlett

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

These were signed and dated

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting:

- a) *Village Hall electrical upgrade*** - The electricians who have quoted to remove the coin meters and extraneous wiring in the electricity cupboard, will undertake the necessary work in September.
- b) *Quote to replace kitchen door*** - Graham has obtained a quote from Brand Windows to replace the door with either a uPVC or an aluminium one. The Trustees voted to opt for a uPVC door.
- c) *Playground update*** - Graham has been in touch with a playground company, HomeFront, who quoted to install a 9m long wooden 'galleon' activity centre, with grass mats for safety. Graham and Emma will head a small committee to organise this. Graham will speak to the Parish Council and HomeFront to see when the work can start.
- d) *Dehumidifier drain pipe update*** - Graham has installed a pipe to drain the water from the dehumidifier outside, away from the air brick and the fire exit.

4. Finance Review:

As the Treasurer was unable to make the meeting, this will be carried over to the next meeting.

5. Amendments to Hall Hire Terms and Conditions:

The current Terms and Conditions need to be brought up to date. Grant, Trudi, Caroline and Paula will review them.

6. Play Equipment Inspection:

Graham will check with Wicksteed when last inspection was done and how often one is needed.

7. Any Other Business:

- i) *Fireworks*** - Les will get a quote from our usual suppliers.
- ii) *Quiz*** - Caroline, Paula and Trudi will meet with Mary Calvert to organise the quiz. It might need to be moved to January from November if it clashes with the Pumpkin Competition.
- iii) *Advent Calendar Competition*** - It was suggested the village holds an advent calendar competition with a prize for the best-dressed windows. A charge would be made to enter

and also for a trail leaflet to look at the windows in December and vote for their favourite. Paula will look into it.

- iv) Loyalty Card** - It was suggested there was a loyalty card scheme for Pub Nights, where people get a stamp for their first drink at each Pub Night. They would get their first drink at the sixth Pub Night free. John will discuss this with the Pub Night landlord, Helen Bartlett.
- v) Hall Hedge** - Michael Cairns has offered to trim the hedge for the same price as last year.
- vi) Dog Bin** - A new dog excrement bin has been installed at the end of the path near Byways Thatch thanks to Parish Council members.
- vii) Pumpkin Competition** - The recent poor weather has meant that the pumpkins are not as big as hoped. The competition for the largest home-grown pumpkin will still be held but opened up to people who want to buy a commercial pumpkin and carve or decorate it too. Pumpkin soup could be sold at the Pub Night. John will speak to Helen Bartlett. The exact timing of a Pub Night to judge the competition needs to be decided.
- viii) Pub Night Timings** - It was suggested that Pub Nights should start earlier to enable people with very young children to come earlier. John will speak to Helen Bartlett about changing the timings from to 6.00-10.00pm.

8. Date of Next Meeting:
21st September 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.