

CHILMARK READING ROOM
Minutes of CRR Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2023

1. Present

Morag Philpott, Richard Mann, Johan Denekamp, Dathan Trent, Alison Whipp-Long, Eddie Young, Susan Lewis, Tony Lewis, Ellie Rees, Jenny Gavin

2. Apologies

Henrietta Cockrell

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2022 were approved

Proposed: Dathan Seconded: Rich

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Fireplace update

Morag said that the bricks had been cleaned, and the bricks which had fallen into the fireplace had been replaced. Johan had sourced some Chilmark stone to go along the base off the fireplace, which will then be backfilled with mortar. Some sawn logs could then be put in the hearth. A chimney balloon was needed to stop draughts. Dathan agreed to find out what size is required. There was discussion about capping the chimney but it was agreed to leave this for now.

Action: Dathan

5.2 Wall heater

The electrician is unable to move the wall heater until February. There was discussion as to whether both heaters could come from the same socket, so there would be less of the unattractive trunking. If this wasn't possible, it was suggested that the trunking to the heater that is to be moved goes across the wall at ceiling height. This would have to be the discussed with the electrician.

5.3 Card reader

A "Square" card reader had been purchased which Rich had linked up to the Reading Room bank account. It had been used successfully at the Christmas Bazaar. For future events Rich said that other members of the committee could be put on the Square account. It was agreed to find a date when committee members could get together to learn how to use the card reader. Ellie, Dathan, Eddie and Sue said they would be happy to learn how to operate the card reader.

Ellie suggested we might do cash back but as we would need to charge for the commission it was decided this wouldn't be feasible.

Morag thanked Rich for setting up the card reader.

5.4 Christmas bazaar

The Christmas bazaar had been a great success and raised £1,540. The raffle had been an enormous amount of work but the presale had been relatively easy and not as complicated as first thought.

5.5 Born Free Talk

The talk was disappointing as the speaker did not talk about conservation but about her own books. £23 was raised.

5.6 Smart Meter

A smart electric meter had been installed.

6. Treasurer's Report

Johan who was the Reading Room Treasurer until the last AGM said that he had decided to leave the Reading Room committee due to other commitments in the village. The committee thank Johan for all his hard work during the time he had been Treasurer.

Rich presented the accounts for Quarter 1. He said that the event income was £1,663 mainly from the Christmas Bazaar. This is above the £800 budgeted for the full year. Expenditure had been higher due to work on the fireplace being done earlier than anticipated and work on the windows and doors to stop them sticking. The electricity was less than anticipated but

was likely to be more in future quarters. Although the accounts looked good due to the Christmas bazaar it was not as good as it seems due to forthcoming expenditure on electricity. It was agreed that future events need to make money.

7. Review of Hire Charges and Salary of Any Part Time Staff

It was agreed to increase the hire charges by 10%.

It was agreed to increase the rate of pay for our cleaner to £14.00.

8. Electricity Contract

Jenny said that our electricity contract with SSE ended on 31 March 2023. The present renewal rate for a 12 month contract with SSE was nearly three times the current rate. She said that ACRE had a partnership with Utility Aid who might be able to provide a better rate than SSE. It was agreed that Jenny contact Utility Aid to see if we could get better deal.

Action: Jenny

6. Platinum Jubilee Fund

Morag explained that the Government had allocated three million pounds to the Platinum Jubilee Fund for village halls to undertake capital project. It was agreed that the Reading Room would not qualify for this money.

7. Events and Future Events

7.1 Quiz

Morag had contacted Sam and his Frying Machine and he would be able to come on 21 April 2023. There was discussion as to whether the event should be in March. If it was in March we would either have to do the food ourselves or ask the Black Dog if they can provide food as they did last year. Morag agreed to get a price for the fish and chips and Rich would contact the Black Dog. We could then compare prices and make a decision.

Action: Morag, Rich

7.1 Coronation Event

The Parish Council has said it would support a Coronation event if people were prepared to organise it. It was suggested that the Reading Room organise a bar and barbecue on Forbes Field.

7.2 Music Evening

Dathan said he would contact James Brown about holding a music evening in June.

Action: Dathan

7.3 Cheese and Wine Evening

It was suggested that we have a Cheese and Wine evening. Ali agreed to contact Tim Gardner about the possibility of holding the evening in either February or November.

Action: Ali

7.4 Barbecue

It was agreed to hold a barbecue on Sunday 27 August 2023.

7.5 Hungrytown

Hungrytown had been booked for 13 October 2023

7.6 Other Suggestions

Ellie suggested that we hold a classical music evening

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Morag said the website needs to be updated with the new hire rates.

8.2 Morag agreed to review the Safeguarding policy.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 17 April 2023 starting at 6.00pm