

## Shalfleet Hall Committee

### Meeting Notes

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 09:00**

**Present:**

Brian Mead (Chair)  
Michael Beavis (Treasurer)  
Rosalind Freeman (Bookings Secretary)  
Catherine Powell (Secretary)  
Hilary Waitt (Member)

**1. Welcome/Apologies**

No apologies were received.

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, which was called for the purpose of discussing the draft Churchyard Management Plan. The key issue relates to the use of the Church field and the tensions between securing bookings for events, e.g. wedding, children's parties, which provide significant funds for the Church and Hall, and managing the expectations of the condition and/or use of the field at various times of the year.

The field has traditionally been managed as a hay meadow; this means that the grass would be left to grow until the end of Spring (May/June or even July) when it would be cut and baled as hay. The grass would then generally be kept short for the rest of Summer/Autumn to enable, for example, the fete to be held or marquees erected for other events. This 'environmental approach' is apparently in keeping with conditions set out at the time of the Hall receiving grant monies.

RF noted that she needed to be confident in her role as bookings secretary in being able to provide accurate information with regard to the availability and condition of the field at the time that enquiries are made.

HW proposed that a date should be set to cut the hay.

CP commented that actions of the Hall Committee should reflect the recently agreed Constitution, and that arguably this raised expectations of undertaking certain duties:

*2.3 To provide funds to assist with the maintenance and running costs of Shalfleet Church, its Hall, grounds and Churchyard, and where possible to improve and develop these facilities.*

And

*8.1 The Hall Committee shall repair and maintain the building and grounds of the Village Hall as necessary.*

The Committee concluded that the environmental approach be upheld, albeit this may result in fewer bookings (and therefore income) in the earlier part of the year (particularly

weddings). The nature of the hay meadow, and cutting regime, would be explained to potential hirers; those wanting the Hall in the earlier part of the year would be told that it would not be possible to have the field cut, or to put up a marquee, other than the possibility of a small marquee placed on the strip of grass kept shorter for access to the Annex, providing this was 4.5m in width.

The following was also noted:

That a PCC representative would now take over organising the initial cut for hay (this was previously handled by the Hall Committee);

That a date would be requested by which the hay would be cut, to assist with bookings; otherwise no bookings that involved use of the field could be made until post-fete (i.e. after August BH);

That the PCC would be asked to accept the restriction on potential income; with a possibility of a revision to the Constitution;

That where bookings had already been secured (including for 2020/2021) that access to the field would be honoured;

That those making enquiries for future bookings would be told that there was no guarantee that the field would be cut or available; especially those seeking to book in late spring/early summer;

That those wishing to use the field between the fete and end of October do not pose any issues as the field can easily be cut with sufficient notice provided.

**ACTION:** Draft notes to be circulated for agreement by e-mail ASAP in order that they may be shared with the PCC members.

**ACTION:** Add use of Hall for services on a Sunday morning to next meeting agenda (CP)

**POST MEETING ACTION:** HW has requested a copy of the original grant application conditions with respect to management of the grounds.

**POST MEETING ACTION:** MB has measured the strip currently cut at 4.1m

The meeting closed at 09:55.

Approved: Brian Mead (Chair)

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019