

**Porchfield and Newtown Village Hall**  
**Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Present** Jean West: Sue Markovits: Richard Mathrick: Paul Hewson (Chair):  
Natasha Osborne: Prue Osborne (Treas): Tim Markovits: Peggy D Hewson  
(Sec).

**Apologies** Pauline Mayer

**Minutes of** 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Agreed as a true record. Proposed by TM.  
Seconded by PO. Passed unanimously.

**Matters Arising.** None

**Finance** The Porchfield Village Hall fund continues to maintain a healthy balance despite no hirings for the last 8 weeks due to underpinning work. The balance of the fund as at 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 is £22,658,21 and a copy of the monthly finance sheet is attached to the archive copy of these minutes.

PO produced a draft copy of the annual balance sheet for the committee's perusal ahead of the Annual General Meeting next month. The final Annual Balance Sheet will be attached to the relevant minutes.

**Buildings and Maintenance.** The underpinning continues with four underpinnings left to do as at the morning of this meeting. The Parish Council have not allowed the committee to see or have any input into the contract so we have no idea what other work maybe involved, except for that requested by us. Therefore we have no information regarding the timeline for the re-opening of the hall.

We agreed to remove the sheds before the work started and asked for two shed bases and a disabled exit ramp to be included in the contract. This would facilitate the underpinning and make sense to have all the work done together.

We expect to receive an **itemised** invoice showing the cost of the work we requested before paying out any monies as we have to account for all payments to the Charities Commission.

The plasterer has repaired all the internal cracks and painted the area where he worked and the hall looks quite smart even though we will have to have a big clean up when the time comes. Sadly the crack still remains through the Winkle Street mural. He explained to PDH that he was not an artist and would not have been able to repair the picture and this had been agreed with the contractor. He did say, when asked, that he did not believe that the crack compromised the integrity of the hall

SM suggested we should invest in a sign outside the hall as there is nothing to tell the general public what this building is. At the same time we could have another sign across the window over the front door to show that we exist. In addition it was agreed that the notice board needs attention. It was suggested that we replace it but as it was very expensive, a refurbishment seemed more sensible. The idea behind these plans once we are able to use the hall is to give the hall a higher profile and to be more welcoming.

**Events.** All events are in abeyance at the moment but we are agreed that we will make a special effort for the first event to celebrate the re-opening of the hall. PO suggested that Tea and Chat regardless of the day or the month would be a good event to begin. This will hopefully take place as soon as the new sheds are erected and the container removed.

**Bookings.** None, but unofficially it is clear that some of our regular hirers are champing at the bit to come back to us and we have advised them to check the website which is kept up to date by PH.

**Any other business.** PDH mooted the idea of new curtains to give the hall a fresh look but JW felt that the present curtains were fine. PDH commented that in the 18 years she had lived in the village the curtains had remained the same. She did however volunteer to wash one and compare it with one of the

others to see if that would help with a decision.

PO mentioned boarding the loft, which has been added to the refurbishment list, plus advising the committee that there are four chairs up there!

The general consensus is that this is our opportunity to have a good clear out and dispose of all unwanted items.

It may be useful to have an extra meeting later on to discuss the refurbishment only and the best way of working through the various tasks we have listed.

The June meeting should commence with the Annual General Meeting so we have decided to organise a flyer to be delivered to all local residents. Quite a few new people have moved to Porchfield and we want them to know they have a village hall and that we need their support. This will be postponed if the hall is not available.

The committee sadly is ageing and numbers are dwindling. We are down to nine members and desperately need new blood and new ideas for the hall so that it can survive as a community asset.

Meeting Closed 7.45pm

**Next Meeting .**

**Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 6.30**

**Annual General Meeting (if hall available) followed by committee meeting.**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

**Paul Hewson. Chairman**