Minutes – Swillington Village Hall Committee meeting 30th April 2024

Apologies for absence. none

Present – Margaret Best Treasurer/Jacqui Smith Secretary/ Sheila Bainbridge Chairwoman/Cllr. J Knox Sw. VC representative.

Minutes of meeting 26/03/24 were accepted as a true record.

**Matters arising**

There were none

**General Maintenance**

After discussion it was agreed to invite “Rapid Repair” to carry out a survey of the drainage system.

The survey will then be used to budget for any necessary work – JS to facilitate.

In order to help prevent leaves blocking the downpipes it was agreed to purchase gutter guards, in addition the damaged downpipe is to be repaired – MB to facilitate.

Cllr JK agreed to secure the remaining two smoke alarms one in the main hall and one in the entrance lobby.

**Treasurer’s report** MB had previously circulated the latest bank statement & reconciliation which was accepted and signed. A discussion ensued regarding the outstanding unpaid hire by Apostles, a faith group (£425). Taking a number of things into consideration the committee members unanimously agreed to write off the debt. MB to facilitate.

**Risk register** – the fire alarm was successfully tested; no other items were identified as needing action.

**Northern PowerGrid grant application**

Following discussion, it was agreed that the installation of solar panels together with a backup battery would increase energy resilience and enable the VC to provide a warm hub during emergency events, particularly in view of the higher proportion of elderly and vulnerable members of the community (Pacey’s). MB had used the online tool provided by ACRE to ascertain the viability of the project although it was accepted that further survey work may need to be carried out. JS was asked to convey this decision to the Clerk asap as the closure date for application is 13th May.

**Party Bookings** – there are three dates in May 2/11&19th which will be facilitated by SB/MB&JS

**Review of Charging fee for SVC & VHMC meetings** It was agreed that the committee suggests that no charge will be made in future for VC and committee meetings although they would still need to be booked in the diary via Hallmaster. Social and community events would continue to be charged at the lower hire rate.

**AOB** – There was none

Meeting closed 7.45pm

Next meeting – 28/05/24