EGERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Games Barn sub-Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of the Games Barn AGM held on 24 April 2024 at 19.00pm at Committee Room Egerton Millennium Hall

Present: Melanie Rawlinson (Chair), Kirsa-Lomerud-Olsen (Caretaker and Bookings), Claire Foinette (EPC), Lois Tilden (minute-taker for this meeting). No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies:** Sonia Young (EPC Clerk), Kayleigh Kench (Egerton pre-School Manager)

2. **Declarations of Interest**: None

3. **Minutes of the last meeting on 19 July 2023 13th approved and signed**: **Proposer**: Kirsa Lomerud-Olsen; Seconded: Claire Foinette (LT abstained as not present at last meeting)

4. **Update following minutes of last meeting:**

The heater installed by CS Heating has proved to be very efficient – still a little noisy but effective. CF was thanked for her efforts to achieve this installation.
New locks had been fitted and adjusted.
The Committee also expressed gratitude to the late Geoff Wickens who left the proceeds of his estate in trust for sport and recreation projects in the village. The Games Barn has been a significant beneficiary.
Lynne Garbutt may be interested in joining the Committee and will be in touch.
The broken goal post may not need to be replaced. Keep under review.

5. **Chairman's report:**

Thank you to everyone on the committee for their hard work in getting improvements to the GB through. There has been good feedback from some users of the village hall about the new heating system. ERCC held its AGM there on a chilly winter evening and it was warm inside and a good venue for the get together. Dance Classes (including Tap) and now new Pilates classes are starting in the GB so hopefully there will be more bookings as the word gets round that the new heating system is a real asset to the facility. The area around the GB also looks a lot tidier as much of the overgrowth has been cut back.
Our other plans are now starting to come to fruition: the painting of the exterior of the GB was passed by EPC and the work should be starting in May. The building will be jet-washed and any cracks repaired as part of the job. A conversation has also begun on understanding what may attract younger people in the village to make use of the Games Barn. The GB now has Wi-Fi and a new locking system.
As chairman I presented at the February Village Projects meeting two requests which have been on our radar for a while – the first was a request for possible funding for a Battery to store electricity from the solar power panels (to power the GB and which also may be able to power the lighting in the village hall car park for instance) and also a suggestion to see whether we could have a village facilities on-line booking system (GB,VH,SP). Of course this will need conversations with the committees of the other village facilities to see whether such a system would be feasible. To test out the level of interest in these ideas both formed part of the "Proposed Village Projects" ranking form which will be available for all parishioners to participate in to help EPC develop its priorities for the next few years.
Also on the form was the suggestion of funds to install outdoor adult gym equipment. The area around the Games Barn could be a possible site for this.

Still on our wish-list for improving the facilities are lighting and washroom upgrades and also possible upgrades of the benches. There was a price rise for usage last October but another pricing review may need to be considered if costs escalate.
I would like to thank everyone for all their help in making these enhancements of the facilities.

6. Election of Officers
SY had indicated she would remain as Games Barn secretary and Treasurer and no-one volunteered for the role as Chair so MR continued to take the role. LT took notes this time.

7. Games Barn use and rejuvenation:

New Users: Pickleball, Pilates, Tap-dance – this was good news, an indication of the effect of improved heating.
Heating – feedback from users: Users are pleased with the heating. The noise can be disturbing but a solution could be for lead users to switch on heating half an hour before a session starts to pre-heat the area and reduce noise impact whilst activities take place.
The solar panels are effective. Installation of battery storage of surplus energy would supplement electricity outside daylight hours.
ABC equipment grant/outside adult gym equipment:
Excess solar power needs battery storage –it was agreed this should be on the list of items for EPC to consider for further grant aid as mentioned below. The need for new benches would also be added to the list, as would improvements to plumbing.
EPC had begun a process of identifying projects for potential grant funding or funding from s.106 payments by developers of new housing development. Questionnaires about projects for possible funding are being circulated to villagers in Update magazine and these had also been available for completion at the Parish Assembly. The results will be analysed and priorities will be assessed by EPC, anticipated in June/July.
Exterior painting: EPC had approved the quote from Contemporary Coatings to clean, repair and redecorate the exterior walls and windows at a cost of £4,500. It was agreed that the colour needed to be sensitive to the surroundings. It was agreed that MR would obtain tester paint pots in several shades. LT would supply sections of plasterboard on which to use paint the options and all members of the committee would inspect the results when shown against the existing wall, then choose the best.

8. Accounts (circulated by SY prior to the meeting):

Year-end 31/03/2024

	CURRENT	**DEPOSIT**
Balance b/fwd	1940.76	17786.07
Total Income	8990.46	160.75
Total Expenditure	9033.50	5924.98
Balance per Cash Book	**1897.72**	**12021.84**

Although the income fell just short of general running costs, the VAT reclaim had been submitted for £1172.01 which would overcome this. This will bring income above expenditure when the reclaim is paid mid-end May. To allow some build-up over time, not including any grant aid, a further increase in charges may be considered in October. These were uprated in October 2023 at £7.50 per hour for villagers and £10 per hour for non-villagers.

9. AOB

EPC had instigated a series of meetings to discuss and agree streamlining and optimising the management of village assets. One suggestion was a composite automated on-line booking system for Hall, Games Barn and Pavilion. It was recognised that there could be some benefits if the right system could be set up but there might also be drawbacks as there needed to be some form of central control. It seemed a tailored programme would be required with limited public access. It was agreed to keep a watching brief on developments and provide input where necessary to protect GB interests.

Next meeting to be arranged in 6 months' time.

The meeting closed at 19.43

Signed Melanie Rawlinson..... Dated...14th October 2024.....