

MINUTES OF THE BERNARD HALL AGM
WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH 2010, 8PM
BERNARD HALL, CUDDINGTON

PRESENT: Robert Spencer Bernard(chair), Markus Bolton(chair, Management committee), Charlotte Cooper(secretary), Jeremy Stuart-Cox(treasurer), Clive Adcock, Sherry Scott, Tony Picot, Jeane Oke, Dorothy Woodford, Chris Lockett, Grace Brown.

Members of the public: Brenda Williams, Terry Williams, Chris Long, Helen Griffin, John Fortgang, Eileen Fortgang, Nan Cattell.

APOLOGIES: Jim Hayward, Caroline Stonham, Pam Talbot, Zoe Gibson, Jessica Ecott, Margot Hodson, Grants Officer (AVDC).

Minutes

Robert Spencer Bernard welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Minutes from the 2009 AGM were approved – proposed by Sherry Scott and seconded by Chris Long.

Chairman's Report (Management Committee)

The Management Committee reported another good year for the Bernard Hall. At £5,325, 2009 bookings were nearly 20% up on the previous year and the hall continues to be well used. All of the traditional activities such as yoga sessions, dog training and various village suppers have continued and the theatre group is moving from strength to strength.

The finances of the Hall remain healthy. We made a profit of £391 for the year and hold £11,534 of cash. Overall turnover was about £1,000 lower than the previous year.

During 2008, the Hall received a £500 donation from Cuddington fete and Markus registered his thanks to the fete committee for this contribution. The fete committee have been a regular contributor to Hall funds and their assistance is highly valued.

The Hall remains in a state of good repair and the level of maintenance required this year was significantly lower than last.

Cuddington Youth Drama has continued to be a major user of the Hall as it worked towards February's staging of Peter Pan, by far their most ambitious production to date. The show staged six three hour performances and involved around sixty cast and other helpers.

The project to improve kitchen facilities and build a wall around the gents WC to make it a part of the main hall is now close to fruition. The total project cost has been finalised at £65,000 including a £4,000 matching fund requirement for one of our grants. The Committee is pleased to report that the base cost of £61,000 is slightly lower than that estimated at the AGM last year.

The project is being funded by a combination of grants and fund raising. To date the Committee has raised a total of £60,000. The current plan is to raise all outstanding monies from a combination of fundraising and existing funds and to start the work in June of this year.

Every member of the Committee has continued to do an excellent job keeping the Hall running smoothly. Markus made mention of Jeremy Stuart-Cox for handling the finances, Zoe Gibson for managing the bookings, Tony Picot for all his work maintaining the Hall and Charlotte Cooper for her work as secretary of both the management committee and trustees and for her help in securing the grants. He also said he was grateful to Dorothy Woodford, Chris Lockett,

Jean Oke and Jessica Ecott for all their help with the day to day management of the Hall and Elaine English for keeping the Hall clean and for filling it with happy children. Finally he stated that Grace Brown had joined the committee this year and thanked Rob Morris Jones for carrying out the audit.

Robert made a special point of thanking Markus and the Management Committee for all their input and time with the general running of the Bernard Hall and particularly the effort Markus had put into obtaining the grants and funding towards the prospective building work.

Treasurer's Report

Jeremy presented the Accounts for 2009. Total income for 2009 was £6,452.51 which was approx £1,000 less than in the previous year. The shortfall was mainly due to the fee received from Bentley Productions and also the Wine Tasting event held in 2008. Hall hire increased in 2009 and funds were also boosted by Local Elections held in the Hall and teas provided for the Open Gardens.

Total expenditure in 2009 was £6,060.62, considerably less than £8,850 in 2008. This was due to gas and electricity bills being greatly reduced. There was also a substantial reduction in the amount of repair and maintenance needed on the Hall in 2009. Due to a change in company the Hall insurance has been reduced by half.

A surplus of £391.89 for the year 2009 was recorded.

Sherry Scott expressed concern about rubbish and weeds which accumulated outside of the Hall. Her cleaner has been helping to clear this. She asked what we intended to do about this problem and Markus said that he would consult the management committee and try and find a solution.

Preparation Kitchen Extension

Markus informed the meeting that the total cost of the project would be £65,000. £60,000 had been raised through grants and donations. An article is being published in Village Voice appealing for donations to help us reach our target. The building work will commence in June and should be completed by the end of July.

With the aid of tape stuck on the wall outlining where the door, hatch etc. would be, Markus explained that the radiator on the back wall would be moved and that the wooden benches probably transferred to the existing kitchen which would be a storeroom. The new preparation kitchen was expected to be a sizeable area. A group of people: Chris Luckett, Caroline Stonham, Sherry Scott, Zoe Gibson and Chris Randall are going to help with advising on the actual layout of the new kitchen area.

Markus reminded us that the Gents toilet would also be improved by incorporating it into the building. Jeane Oke remarked that the Ladies toilet could be improved sometime in the future.

Any Other Business

No issues were raised and the meeting closed at 8.35pm.