

Semley Village Hall

Semley Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting

in
Semley Village Hall
7.15pm Wednesday 26th June 2013

Chairman's Report for April 2012 – March 2013

First of all, I would like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for all their hard work during the previous year.

Use of the Village Hall continues to increase, hall hire increased by 7% compared with 2011/2012. Many thanks to Deborah Kennett, our Bookings Secretary. The Village Hall finances remain strong and details will be provided by the Treasurer, Mrs Sara Broome.

The Management Committee continues to make improvements to the kitchen facilities. During the period, the kitchen ceiling was replaced and plumbing for the glass washer and dish washer installed. The ceiling was funded by the Wiltshire Council South West Area Board for which the committee is extremely thankful. We have also purchased new matching sets of cutlery.

For the hall itself, we have purchased new chairs, two tables and new notice boards.

The main focus for the Management Committee during the period has been the proposed improvements to the Village Hall.

The proposed improvements are:

- replacement of the existing toilets with modern units for men and women, with facilities for the disabled and baby changing,
- building a larger entrance lobby, with access for the disabled, with improved storage for coats,
- establishing off-road car parking to the south and west of the Village Hall, on additional land to be leased from Mr. Chris James, and
- establishing a children's play area to the north side of the Village Hall.

The Sedgehill and Semley Parish Council submitted the Planning Application for the improvements on our behalf and this was approved by Wiltshire Council on January 11th 2013. The Council noted in the approval that "In accordance of Para 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework, Wiltshire Council has worked pro-actively to secure this development (to improve the (social, economic, and environmental) conditions of the area.)

The Management Committee is extremely thankful for the Parish and County Council's public support for the improvements. This demonstrates the all important local support required by funding agencies such as BIG Lottery. I would also like to thank Martin Dines

for overseeing the development of the plans and then the Planning Application through to a successful conclusion.

Subsequent to receiving Planning Approval, an ecology survey has been completed by Sedgehill Ecology Services and the resulting Ecology Plan for the ground surrounding the Village Hall has been approved by Wiltshire Council.

The ground to the rear and side of the hall was cleared in February as required by the plan and the Management Committee would like to thank Mr. Robin Young and Mr. Ian Allen for undertaking most of the work, and free of charge.

The total expenditure to date on the improvements is in the order of £2,600 (£2,045 this year) and includes new fencing to the rear of the hall, architects fees, ecology survey and ground works.

Subsequent to receiving Planning Approval, the Management Committee reviewed what elements of the proposed improvements could be funded and undertaken in the short term and that would make a significant improvement to the village; especially young people and families.

The proposed play area to the north side of the hall was identified as being the best candidate due to the availability of R-2 funding. This is provided by land developers and set aside for Parish use by Wiltshire Council for the explicit use of developing outdoor recreational areas. The Parish Council has agreed that the available R-2 funds (circa £3,700) should be allocated to the proposed play area and subsequently Wiltshire Council has “ring fenced” them. We thank them both for doing so. Wiltshire Council also advised that the R-2 funds, supplemented by Village Hall funds, up to a value of £5,000 could be matched by South West Area Board funds resulting in external funding of up to £8,700.

Deborah Kennett organised a competition at Semley School that allowed us to get the children to tell us what they wanted in the play area. This was then detailed in a specification that was provided to potential suppliers. There will be swings at the front of the play area, balance beams, a “jungle trail” and a tunnel and slide as well as table and chairs. The W.I. tree will be relocated.

Three potential suppliers were identified and were requested to provide costs of the play equipment (as of April 2013). In parallel, and to reduce overall project costs, the Village Hall Management Committee has estimated the costs for preparation of the site; these are based on using volunteer labour and free hire of construction equipment. The Committee intends to select a preferred supplier in May 2013 and submit its application for funding to the South West Area Board in June 2013.

Funding for the remaining improvements (car park, building and entrance / lay-by) will now be sought, probably in late 2013, after the play area has been completed. This will include an outline request to the BIG Lottery “Reaching Communities” fund. We have also identified other potential sources of funding including community and charitable foundations and trusts. The level of investment already made and that currently planned for the play area by the Village Hall, the Parish (R-2 funds) and Wiltshire Council will clearly demonstrate the all important community support for the improvements.

We will be able to approach Wiltshire Council for further funding, but this will need to be matched. We will therefore need to increase our fund raising activities in the coming years, building on the very generous donations made by the Village Fete, WI and Parish Council, for which we are very thankful, and the very successful Table Top Sale and Jazz Night.

As noted above, there is an increasing level of committee work and this is expected to increase with the additional fund raising and community events. The Management Committee is therefore continuing to look for people of all ages to help us scope, plan and organise a wide range of activities. We will be delighted to hear from anyone interested in helping us.

This concludes the Chairman's Report for 2012/2013.

A. C. Duthie
Chairman – Village Hall Management Committee