

Bamburgh Pavilion Association Committee Meeting

Friday 10th November 2023 at 12 noon in the Pavilion

Present: Gillian Bardgett, Barbara Brook, Bill Brook, Dave Carney, Jamie Edgar, Susan Gibson, John Lamb, John Mackey.

1. Energy Resilience Project with guest Neil Pickard

As a background, it had been suggested that in the event of another 'Storm Arwen' the Pavilion could be used as a 'warm hub' for the village. Kirsty Dobson from the Parish Council took this up and obtained a grant of £17,500 + VAT for solar panels. We could go ahead with this if (a) the Pavilion committee agrees, (b) Castle Estates agree, (c) we get planning permission and (d) gain a satisfactory roof survey.

John Mackey, representing the Parish Council, introduced Neil Pickard to talk us through the proposed project. It was an extremely interesting discussion with many questions asked.

As a warm hub, in the event of another storm, and with the power from the solar panels, we could get 24-48 hours of heat and several boilings of the kettle and heating of soup. We decided 24 hours would be a sufficient time to be in the Pavilion as we would always find other places to live until power was restored to our homes. This led to another discussion about the suitability of a generator rather than the solar panel route, which Jamie agreed to investigate.

As a means of paying less on our electricity bills (which is why some halls with electric heating have found it to be so worthwhile) the savings would be negligible as we have oil fired heating in the Pavilion.

If we go ahead with solar panels the Parish Council will buy them as they won't then pay VAT. Who will maintain and own them? The increase in the Pavilion's insurance will be negligible and there is very little maintenance to consider, as they are guaranteed for 15 years. We would use our architect for planning permission as he already has drawings of the building and roof. The planning permission will cost us money, but the primary concern for us is the potential damage the solar panels could cause to the felt roof. Is the advantage of being a warm hub for 24 hours in a storm worth the worry of potential damage to the roof caused by solar panels? It would be financially worrying to us but of benefit to the village.

The roof was examined 5 months ago and was pronounced fit for purpose, but it is an ageing roof. We decided to (a) do nothing regarding planning permission but wait for Neil to come back regarding the roof, (b) Jamie to look at generators regarding what would keep us going after a storm and what will be the optimum capacity and (c) John M to chat with other village hall users where solar panels have been installed.

We thanked Neil for his time in coming to talk with us.

2. Apologies for Absence

Linda Kirby.

It was noted, with regret, that Joan Miller has resigned from the committee. Bill has written to her thanking her for her many years of service for us. We were encouraged to think of someone who could take her place.

3. Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 8th September

Agreed and signed.

4. Matters Arising

We now have a TV licence.

5. Treasurer's Report

We have just over £9k in our bank account. The joiner has promised to come by next March, after which time the painter can finish his work. We have just collected £250 cash from the Vic from the tennis court hiring.

6. Booking Secretary's Report

Susan reported that the 2025 calendar is now open to the public and user groups are invited to put their dates in. Yoga has become a regular user group with Sarah Dodds as teacher.

7. Maintenance Report

There is still work to do on the steps and Alan McFarlane is going to look at the emergency lighting. The curtain hooks/rehanging of curtains is due to be done later this year.

There was then a discussion about the tennis court. George Lillico has been to see it and is very worried about the moss which needs to be treated. If nothing is done then the power washing will break up the surface. We agreed to pay £300 to treat the moss now and that this money will come off the bill of £2,900 (+ VAT) when it is repainted next spring.

8. Kitchen spring clean and replacements

Gill, Barbara, Susan and (hopefully) Joan to do this as soon as can be arranged.

9. Rota check list/duty officers

As time was pressing, we decided to discuss this in more detail at our January meeting, but Dave Carney thought that the duty officer shouldn't need to check after user groups have been in, just before and after private functions. We thought we should re-assess the fees for people other than user groups coming in.

10. Any Other Business

Bill has sent our accounts to the Charity Commission and also to the community funds which gave us grants. The indoor bowls have now got a new mat and they haven't been charged for this quarter.

Next committee meeting: suggested Friday 12th January at 12 noon?