**OTTERHAMPTON PARISH RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the OPRA Committee Meeting held on 26th September 2019 at 7.30pm**

**32 Nursery Close**

**PRESENT**

Tina Gardener (Chair) Di Davey

Barry Leathwood (Vice Chair) Felicity Ashworth

Ann Leathwood (Secretary) Mary Cornish

Sue Frances (Treasurer) Melvyn Fooks

**19/14 APOLOGIES :** Bev Smith and Jacqui Sparks

**19/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of 2nnd April 2019 were approved by the meeting and signed by the chair.

**19/016 MATTERS ARISING**

**19/17 CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from Helen Jowett thanking OPRA for the grant of £25 to support the coffee morning trips (see below)

**19/18 TREASURERS REPORT**

Sue reported as follows

Bank (Current Acc) £309.53 Cash £177.03

100 Club £1874.55 Savings £2871.28

Total Funds £5232.39

It was agreed to transfer £1,500.00 from 100 club account to the current account to cover expected expenditure i.e. fireworks, lantern parade, Christmas Dinner etc.

The following cheques have been presented:



(It was noted that the Village Hall Committee will increase room hire rates from January

2020 – details to be confirmed)

**19/19 VILLAGE HALL DONATION**

Confirm a donation of £500 to the village hall committee agreed at the informal site meeting on 20th June. This matched the support given by the parish council.

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**19/20** **PAVILION REPLACEMENT**

Tina reported that at the site meeting in June further thought had been given to the siting of a replacement for the pavilion. It was now suggested that it be located in the field next to the bungalow (49 Riverside) where we had previously stored the OPRA tractor. Barry confirmed that he had been in touch with the owner of the land Ron Page who had no objection to this proposal subject, to the agreement of his tenants the Bells.

If Mr Page agrees, it will be necessary to have a formal legal agreement, the cost of which would be borne by OPRA and planning permission sought. Tina has been in touch with two companies who supply shipping containers which can be adapted to our purpose. Consideration will have to be given to land (base) preparation, lighting, 4 wheel trolley to transport equipment to and from the common etc.

More details to be provided at the next meeting.

Tina reported on the need to replace the existing mower which is used to cut the common. The recommended replacement is a Bridgwater Mowers Cub Cadet with much larger cutting blades. Other machines will be considered before making a final decision. A smaller shipping container may be needed to house the mower.

It is proposed that these projects be funded by application to the Otterhampton Parish CIM Fund.

**19/21 FIREWORKS AND TRAINING** **AND LANTERN WORKSHOPS**

The fireworks will proceed as before with broadly the same firework package supplied by Pains Fireworks and will be ordered by Sue. Ann will write to the various authorities and residents in the usual way.

Tina reported that the theme for the lanterns this year will be ‘Under the Sea’.

The workshops for children will take the same format as last year. The cost per child will be £2.50 and places can be booked at the Post Office nearer the time. The dates for the workshops are;

Thursday 24th October 10am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Friday 25th October 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Monday 28th October 10am to 1pm

Tuesday 29th October 1.30pm to 4.30pm

Wednesday 30th October 10am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm (finishing and collection)

It is hoped that groups within the village might like to make their own lanterns. The committee decided OPRA would make a lantern around the theme “Treasure Chest”.

**19/22 CRISTMAS DINNER**

Agreed invites be delivered to all qualifying senior citizens on Sunday 3rd November. Invitation list to be updated to include Steve and Liz Turner as special guests. To confirm that Ray Bollen will be in charge of cooking assisted by Christine Stockham. Further details to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Following a discussion it was agreed to invite honorary guests to the dinner.

**19/23 TALKS AND WALKS**

No talks have been arranged at the moment.

It was suggested that the October Walk should be around Pawlett Hams which would include passing Combwich from the opposite side of the River. This has been done twice in the past and proved very popular. Also agreed that it may be possible to have a shorter walk for those just wanting a view of Combwich from the other side of the river and a longer one for others. This will take place on Sunday 20th October at 9.30am.

**19/24** **HISTORY PROJECT**

Barry reported that a Facebook Group called “Combwich, Otterhampton and Steart Memories” has been set up by Sheena Tucker with Sheena and Barry as administrators. Currently about 70 individuals have signed up and sharing their photographs and memories.

Tina asked whether a book of photographs which had already collected could be produced and sold to interested parties. Barry though this would involve a lot of work and would probably be too costly but would look into it.

**19/25 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

None

The meeting closed at 10 pm.

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm at 32 Nursery Close.

Signed…………………………………… Date………………………..