

MEETING OF THE SMITHY WORKING PARTY held on TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 2011,
at 7.00 pm in the ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Ecclestone

PRESENT: Cllr Skepper (Chair)
Cllrs Almond, Ashcroft, Duncan, Grey-Williams, Haw, Maloney, C & G Pearl,
Sims & Watmough
Miss J Chamberlain & Miss V Hirons (Curators)
Mrs L Scott (Clerk)

CURATORS' REPORT

Councillors were given copies of the Curators' Report for July from which the following was discussed:

Heritage Open Day – The Curators thanked all Councillors who attended the Village Hall over the weekend. Sunday proved to be the busiest day but there were not as many volunteers and Andrew Martlew helped serve teas etc. It was suggested that we could send him a letter of thanks for his help. Next year St Helens Council proposes holding a town centre event the week before Heritage Weekend in order to promote forthcoming activities around the Borough.

Japanese Knotweed – This is now under control and the Clerk confirmed a Customer Request for Work form had been received charging Ecclestone Parish Council and Henbury Court equally with the cost of treatment which will probably be for the next 3 years. The Clerk has checked that the cost of £46.55 plus VAT is half the total cost.

Vicky reported that a syringe had been found in the Village Hall grounds during the clean up for Heritage Weekend, together with a burnt out candle. This will be reported to the Police at the Parish Council Meeting following but Councillor Sims confirmed that she had previously asked them to check out the possibility of a vagrant using the grounds.

Payments for Orders

The purchase of large orders by Curators and Clerk was once again raised. Grant awards have made it necessary to purchase large items which must be paid for by cash or card. Both these methods are currently not available to Parish Council employees at present. Both the Curators and Clerk have been paying for items with their own money/cards and re-claiming the amounts. The Clerk is to ask the Society of Local Council Clerks for their recommendations.

Hall Users

The Family Group using the Hall periodically have raised issues with the Curators in that children have been allowed to run through the buildings unchecked. This has been brought up with Lisa and she has spoken to the Group leader.

Health, Safety & Hygiene

Curators have recently needed to supply first aid to a young visitor and have requested an Accident Book and notification of where the First Aid kit can be found. The Clerk stated a book had been put in the same drawer as the First Aid kit – second drawer down in the kitchen – but this has, apparently disappeared. Knobs are missing from the drawers and need replacing and the drawers labelled so that items can be located quickly. Curators also queried whether we should label doors in the Hall, ie Disabled Toilet, Kitchen, etc and consider providing a Baby Changing unit in the future.

Joanne stated that she had purchased toilet rolls and washing up liquid for use at the weekend as there was none available. The Clerk stated that she had asked the Caretaker to make cleaning materials available beforehand.

Alarm System

Best Alarms had been called out to the Hall recently and all the batteries replaced but had been informed that they need to re-visit the system in order to make changes as the sensors had been incorrectly catalogued when the system was fitted. The Clerk is to check this out.

SIGNED

DATED