

Leigh on Mendip Memorial Hall Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 5th January 2026

Present: V Taylor, R Orpwood, E Brooks, D Pattison, S Adams & A Orpwood.

Discussion about a replacement cooker

Before the meeting proper VT welcomed Vicky Higgins, who was attending the meeting to support a request for a replacement cooker for the hall. Vicky is a key member of the organisers of the monthly Leigh Lunch, which has become a very popular event, and which is the main user of the cooker. Vicky said the current cooker made preparing the lunches very complicated. There are two main problems:-

1. Oven temperature control is very poor, with big differences between the left and right sides of the oven. This made judging cooking times very tricky, and a lot of heat is lost from the hot side when the oven door is opened.
2. The dials on the knobs are very difficult to read.

The cooker is around 20 years old and it was felt that it has probably reached the end of its practical life. A much superior replacement has been identified, a Lincat, which is a single phase commercial cooker which heats up very quickly. Vicky presented a quotation from Nisbets of around £2.5K, with similar figures quoted by other suppliers. It was suggested that support for this purchase could be requested from the Tarmac community fund.

The committee agreed that a replacement cooker should be acquired, and that a request for the whole amount should be sent to the quarry fund for their consideration at their March meeting. DP agreed to complete a first draft of the application form, which had to be done on-line, ready for the quarry deadline of the end of January. He would liaise with VT during its preparation.

Minutes of the last meeting:

1. The Minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and were signed by Chair VT and Treasurer DP.

Matters Arising not on the agenda:

1. DP mentioned that he had managed to get the kitchen clock to present an accurate time.

Treasurer's Report:

1. DP reported that private parties had brought in £175 during December, and that last year's audited accounts had been returned by the auditors, and that they were happy.
2. DP had received back the loan he had made to the accounts, and two invoices were presented by RO for reimbursement, one for smoke alarms, and one for dishwasher chemicals.

Booking Clerk's Report:

1. AO reported that bookings were continuing to be very healthy, with around 70 bookings for January. Hirers were being better at returning formal booking forms, and that invoices were being paid promptly. She said that a possible new event organized by Ty was a regular table tennis session. She would talk more about this in AOB.
2. SA asked if the WI could hire some glasses for their anniversary event. AO said that was fine, and that as a member of the committee SA could borrow them free of charge.

Annual Tasks/ Accident Folder:

1. DP reported that two annual tasks were due in January; payment for the music license, and for lawn mowing. However he has yet to receive their invoices.
2. EB reported that there were no new entries in the accident book.

Maintenance:

1. There continues to be no new ingress of water through the roof.
2. EB reported that the new curtains had been delivered but that the stage curtains had to be returned as they had not been lined, contrary to our order. She had liaised with the manufacturers who had apologised and promised to return the lined curtains very shortly. It was agreed we should plan a group curtain-hanging session. A provisional date of Saturday 17th January at 11.00am was agreed, dependent on the stage curtains being received. A backup date of Sunday 25th was also agreed. EB felt it would be useful for her to purchase some extra curtain hooks.
3. The installation of gravel grids in the car park was discussed. It was felt that it would be important to get some idea of likely installation costs as they would be the major expense. Any likely application, possibly to the Whatley quarry fund, should wait until the summer when we should have a better idea of total costs, and should have explored the issue of the interface with the pub.

Any Other Business:

1. VT reported that the Parish Council had discussed the possibility of installing an EV charging point in the village, and that the two possible locations would be in the hall or rec field car parks. The only downside for the hall would be the loss of a car parking space. Installation would be paid for by the company providing the charger. At this stage the PC was just interested in what the committee thought, and after some discussion the committee felt that there was a lot still be determined but that at this point they could agree in principle.
2. DP reported that he was planning to produce a financial report in February looking at the trends in our income and expenditure, and other issues.
3. DP also reported that he had been notified that the bar area fire door had jammed. He had found the fault involved and repaired the door. The viability of the fire doors is clearly a crucial fire safety issue, and RO agreed to include a functional check on the doors as part of the weekly fire checks.
4. As discussed last time DP had explored possible stage steps on the web. RO had constructed some folding wooden steps which he had installed at the weekend. The committee examined these and thought they were a good solution. RO agreed to install a further set on the opposite side of the stage.
5. AO wondered if the hall could purchase some table tennis bats and balls for the planned table tennis sessions starting shortly. The committee agreed that if Ty would like to buy some new bats and balls he would be reimbursed. All the equipment would be stored in the hall so it was available for anyone who booked the hall for a game of table tennis.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 2nd February at 7.30 in the hall.

Signed

Dated by

Signed

Dated by