

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cottage Management Committee
held on 15 March 2022**

Apologies for Absence : Ron Woollam

Matters Arising: The BYOB policy needs to wait until the CIC is up and running. It should not be a problem as long as it is for a fundraiser.

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At the moment the café is only just breaking even if we did not have the lottery funding. However we have some cover until December 2024, so with increased hours of opening etc it should all work out favourably.

STAFF:

We now have 40 volunteers, with 37 active and three on leave at the moment. They range in age from 14 to 92.

Michelle had her first appraisal today and everyone feels there is a need for another 16 hour a week part time employee.

Staff will be entitled to cost of living rises as they are on the same scale as local authority rates. The recommendation is that Michelle should go up a point within the band that she is on.

ACCOUNTS :

The gas and electric budget needs to be increased for the next year. We still have no rateable value. They are being chased monthly. The water meter is being installed but United Utilities cannot fix the rate until they have a rateable value.

The “consumable” category should be calculated differently. This will be adjusted accordingly.

We will probably have to consider an increase in prices from 1 April with the costs of purchases mounting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The building is getting busier outside opening hours. Scouts, German group, Slimming, Art Class and Help for Heroes once a month are all popular. A book club and Scrabble group are due to start soon. A coffee group is being instigated by Liz Cross for teenagers, which will run from 3-6pm on a Monday evening. We feel it is important that the youth of the village are catered for, so this is very positive.

The computers upstairs need parental controls putting on them before the teenager group commences.

The Noticeboard is now up in the café. A calendar will be put up every month to say what is happening.

Pat has contacted the De-Fib man at the ambulance HQ but has had no response so far.

Preston Marriott have offered all café volunteers a deal of £38 a month membership of the Leisure Club. Ribby Hall are also being approached.

Brian explained about “time credits” for volunteers. He will produce some information for us to see how it would work for us.

The Parish Council will pay all the legal fees for the setting up of the CIC.

We need volunteers for gardening. The new lengthsman has been employed and whilst he will maintain the garden he will need help. We will put an appeal on social media, with free drink and cake for a gardening session.

Next Meeting : Tuesday 26 April 2022 at 7pm

