

A.G.M. Payhembury Parish Paper Committee, 11th March 2010 at Slade Barton

Present:

Editor Sue Derbyshire, Betty Johns, Babs Leach, Di Somers, Stephanie Houghton, Mary Whiting

Apologies:

Treasurer Liz Capel, Assistant Editor Emma Hewerdine

Minutes of last meeting: were read and approved

Matters arising: No new committee member representing school yet. Sue to approach Anne Lush. Sue asked for a volunteer to Chair meetings as she was under a lot of time pressure. Mary agreed to do this.

Financial report:

<u>CREDITS (£)</u>		<u>TOTAL</u> <u>(£)</u>	<u>DEBITS (£)</u>		<u>TOTAL</u> <u>(£)</u>
Shop Box	96.55		Feniton	1,560.0	
			Duplication	0	
Donations	149.00		Misc	3.60	
Advertising	1055.66	1301.21			1563.60
Credits	1301.21				
Less Debits	1563.60	-262.39			
Balance	-				
	262.39				
Bal b'fwd from last yr	815.32*				
BALANCE C/FWD	£552.93				

Donations are down this year so it was agreed that more money needs to be raised. An appeal to be made in next edition of Parish Paper and gift envelopes to be inserted. Sue to print labels and ask shop if they are willing to act as a collection point before their closure, Mary to do envelopes.

Editor's report: Sue reported that lack of space in the paper was becoming a real problem leading to dissatisfaction among some contributors that their articles were not given enough space. This resulted in rather unpleasant e-mails being sent to Sue from time to time which it was agreed was totally unacceptable. Babs pointed out that the village has grown considerably recently and therefore it was likely that we needed to expand the paper. It was agreed that an extra 4 sides of paper should be printed each month, (this would cost an extra £21 per month at present rates). Sue confirmed that she could fill the new pages with appropriate news and information and suggested an information page on the inside front cover with useful phone numbers for parish councillors, road repairs etc. This was agreed by the committee.

Babs emphasised that the Parish Paper should be used for dissemination of information and reports of village events and should not be political or controversial, this was

generally agreed and it was pointed out that Sue had recently put an end to correspondence that was in danger of becoming inflammatory. Local news and events should have priority but Sue should have discretion to include general relevant information. Sue reported that she didn't receive many notifications of newcomers to the village or of births, marriages and deaths. Mary would ask the distributors to pass on information of newcomers to Louise Grainger and Babs would pass on information from the church. With an extra 4 pages available Sue said she would now be able to give more notice of forthcoming events in the form of a forward diary or advertising.

Any other business: Revenue: It was agreed that the Parish Paper had always been freely available to everyone in the parish and that was an important principle to uphold but that we did need to raise more money to ensure the future of the paper. It was therefore agreed after some discussion to increase charges for advertising as follows:

Small ad from £13 to £14

¼ page from £26 to £28

½ page from £52 to £56

¾ page from £78 to £84

1 page from £104 to £110

It was agreed that Emma Hewerdine as advertising manager should have some discretion re implementing these changes. She would also ask advertisers to move to electronic versions of their ads if possible as this would make printing easier and more flexible.

Due to the imminent closure of the shop it was agreed that the pub should be asked if they would take the extra copies of the paper each month and also display a collection box for donations. Sue agreed to ask them and to supply a box. Any extra spare copies could be left in the church or possibly in the village hall. Other possibilities re. Fund raising were discussed such as asking Lesley Elford whether some of the funds she raises for the village hardship fund by quiz nights and carol singing could be diverted to the parish paper instead. Babs agreed to sound her out.

Closure of village shop: Following the recent announcement from Mike and Niki Perrington we all recognised how grateful we were to them over the last 11 years for their help in collecting donations for the paper and in raising funds by their lottery and general helpfulness all round. Sue agreed to pass on our thanks to them.

Thanks were expressed too to Sue for her sterling work as editor which was recognised as very time consuming, to Emma for the advertising and editorial assistance, to Liz for keeping the books and Mary for distribution. The other committee members all reiterated their willingness to help with anything they could as well as giving advice and support.

Next meeting: It was agreed that the time of the meeting should be changed to 4pm to enable more people to attend. A tentative date of 4pm on the 10th March 2011 at Monkton Park Farm was agreed, to be confirmed next January.

The meeting was closed at mid-day.