

Payhembury Parish Paper A.G.M.  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at Monkton Park Farm

Present: Sue Derbyshire, Liz Capel, Emma Hewerdine, Betty Johns, Babs Leach, Di Somers, Anne Lush, Stephanie Houghton and Mary Whiting

Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated and were taken as read.

Matters arising from the minutes: Anne was welcomed on to the committee and we recognised that her help would be invaluable in collecting news from the school and maybe contributions from the children.

Emma was also welcomed to the meeting in her capacity as deputy editor and advertising manager and it was agreed that changing the meeting time to enable her to come was a good idea.

Babs reported that it was still difficult to get news of births, marriages and deaths from the church but it was hoped that when the new P.C.C. secretary (Yo Smallwood) took up the job this would become easier.

Babs thanked Sue for her sterling work as editor of the paper, also Liz as treasurer, Emma as deputy editor and advertising and Mary for distribution. Babs and Betty said how important it was for the dates on the back page to be accurate and all agreed that Sue and Emma did an excellent job on this considering the difficulties of keeping track of all the many changes made by different organisations.

Editor's report: Sue said that having the extra pages in the paper had made it easier to fit in all contributions. On some months there were more reports submitted than others and that this was impossible to plan for but that if she had any space there were always articles of general interest from outside the parish that she included or alternatively she increased the font size.

Advertising report: Emma reported that there had been slightly fewer people taking out larger advertisements but this was balanced by more smaller ads and that she had a waiting list of people for the start of the new advertising year in June although they could not always be relied on to actually take out advertising.. She was still working on encouraging advertisers to submit electronic adverts as they were much easier to deal with and made better quality printing. She was willing to help anyone unable to do this themselves for a small fee which she would donate to the P.P. funds.

Treasurer's report:

<u>Credits</u>		
<u>Debits</u>		
Envelopes	£343.75	F.D.S.
printing	£1812.00	
Donations	232.21	Returned
cheque	28.00	
Advertising	<u>1215.00</u>	
Total	<u>1790.96</u>	Total
<u>£1840.00</u>		
Credits	1790.96	
Less debits	- <u>1840.00</u>	
	<u>-£49.04</u>	

Brought forward from last year: £552.93

Minus

49.04

**Balance carried forward**

**£503.89**

It was clear that we needed to raise more money as our balance was being depleted year by year. After discussion it was agreed that envelopes should be put in the P.P. for donations in July to coincide with the opening of the shop which could act as a collection point. Distributors would also be asked if they would collect any donations. Both Liz and Babs offered to act as collection points. A piece should be put in the paper reminding people that we relied on donations and Sue agreed to do this. It was agreed that it was an important principle to maintain that the paper be delivered free to every household unlike in other villages where a charge was made.

Sue reported that she had approached the Parish Council for a grant although the deadline had passed and they had agreed to give the P.P. £150. Next time we should apply earlier i.e. at the end of the year. We were all grateful to Sue for her efforts and to the council.

Advertising rates were discussed. Charges in Payhembury were lower than in other villages of a similar size. Emma pointed out that it was better to increase charges by a smaller amount each year rather than be forced to make a big increase less often. After discussion it was agreed that as from June the new rates would be as follows:

Small ad           £20

¼ page             £34

½ page             £62

The rates for ¾ and whole pages would remain unchanged as there were no advertisers taking up these options anyway.

Other fund raising ideas were discussed. Babs would ask Lesley Elford if she would consider donating the proceeds from her Quiz night to the P.P. Stephanie suggested a donations pot at other village events. Betty suggested a Bingo evening. Emma suggested a writing competition which would have the added benefit of providing some interesting material to be included in the P.P. A lottery at the shop and the proceeds from the Tea and cakes mornings at the Hall were other suggestions. A donations box at the new shop would be essential.

Liz and Emma agreed to discuss the finances again in September when revenue from envelope donations and advertising had been collected and if necessary to call another meeting but until then we would not undertake any further fund-raising.

Any other business: Liz said that as she had been treasurer for a long time she would like to see if anyone else would like to take over from her. Sue agreed to put a notice in the next P.P. asking for volunteers. Liz kindly agreed to carry on until a new person was found.

Date of next meeting: Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 4p.m. at Monkton Park Farm.