

Minutes of Payhembury Parish Paper A.G.M. held on 12/03/14 at Monkton Park Farm

Present: Sue Derbyshire, Lin Horrocks, Di Somers, Claire McMurtrie, Marian Edwards and Mary Whiting

Apologies for absence: Alan Jones, Kirsty Cann, Anne Lush and Stephanie Houghton

Minutes of the last meeting: These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: The problem with printing contributions from the school had now been resolved.

Editors: Following Sue and Kirsty's resignation as editors Mary thanked them both for all their hard work and commitment and the fantastic job they had done, in Sue's case for 8 years and for Kirsty as deputy editor for the last year or so. This was echoed by all those present.

Mary welcomed the new editorial team of Claire McMurtrie, Marian Edwards and Kate Duggan and everyone expressed how lucky we felt that they had volunteered. It was agreed that Sue would arrange to brief the new editors and assist them until they felt happy about going solo.

Editor's report: There had been a few changes to the paper with different cover designs implemented. Kevin Wooff would be a new contributor with an article about green issues. It was good to have news and pictures from the school more often but all contributors should be encouraged to submit pictures in portrait orientation as this made them easier to fit in the paper. There was sometimes difficulty in trying to avoid controversy e.g. whether to include the article about new housing in Feniton, but it was generally felt that such articles should be at the editor's discretion and that the paper should not become too bland. The Parish Paper had strong links with the church having been started to circulate church and village information to the parish, but it was generally felt that although the church still used the paper to publish church news, vicar's letter, service times and the church mouse article that the paper was now a whole village organisation and we could use different cover pages which didn't necessarily feature the church. Articles from villagers were welcomed, especially the nature notes from Alan.

Treasurer's report: Figures submitted by Alan prior to the meeting.

Balance at 1st March 2013 **£1296**

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| Receipts | Adverts | £1407 |
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| | Envelopes | £352 |
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| | Shop box | £41 |
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| | Donations | £430 |
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| | Vale vets flyers | £50 |
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| | J.Oliver insert | £15 |
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| Total receipts | £2295 |
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| Less 12 months printing | £1812 |
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| Balance at 28 th Feb 2014 | £1779 |
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As our balance had increased this year it was felt that the paper was in good shape financially but Marian suggested, and it was agreed by all, that the envelope donation scheme should be used again this year and a piece put in the paper explaining that advertising was one source of income for the paper but that we also relied on donations from readers. The principle of delivering a paper free to each household was discussed and we agreed this was much simpler than trying to collect payments from everyone. Mary to organise insertion of envelopes in June edition and editors to put piece in paper that month asking for donations. Any flyers inserted for commercial organisations should be charged for but free for non-profit making organisations. It is anticipated that printing charges will rise.

Advertising report: Lin reported more difficulties with getting payment from advertisers and in getting the ads in a suitable form. There is still a waiting list for advertisements and some local businesses were disgruntled that they were still waiting. An extra page of advertisements would cost £252 a year in printing costs but the revenue generated would easily cover this at present rates of advertising and printing. It was agreed that we should go ahead with the extra page. Lin said she felt like resigning from advertising job next year, heavy sighs all round...

Distribution: Mary reported that there had been a few minor changes with distributors but that all appeared to be running smoothly at present.

Any other business: There was discussion about including a welcome to people moving in to the village. Mary would ask Marty the postman as the fount of all knowledge in the village, to let us know when someone moves in and ask the relevant distributors to collect the information from them if they were agreeable. Di thought we should also try and include information about births, marriages and deaths. Mary to ask a member of the P.C.C. if they would supply this to the editors each month. It was suggested that if there was space in the paper the winning poem entry from the flower and bulb show could be included, Di would ask permission from the author.

Di advised that to be included in the Parish council donations from their precept, we should write to the council with a request in October. Mary to do this.

Sue will compose a report for the Annual parish meeting on 19/3/14

Date of next meeting : Set provisionally for 11/3/14 at Monkton Park Farm at 4.15pm.

Meeting closed at 5pm