**Shadoxhurst Village Forum**

**Minutes**

* To maintain the quality of life for all in the village
* To generate issues that could be put to the Parish Council
* To re-kindle community spirit and engender friendship
* To build a social feeling in the village
* To suggest things that will bring people together
* With a Vision to create and develop a positive community spirit.

**28th Village Forum Meeting**

 **on**

**Monday 18th October 2021**

**In the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

**1) Welcome & Introductions**
Present:- David Ledger, Peter Webb, Ron & Karen Battersbee, John & Hannah Collison, Colin & Val Carrol, Paul & Samantha Taig, Simon and Kim Slater-Canon, Emma Yeomans & Bernard Howe

Apologies:- Sheila Ellis

**2) Election of Chair and note taker:** As the group membership is open to the entire village and attendance is optional it was decided that, of those present, one person would act as chair and another take notes/produce minutes for the meeting. Peter agreed to be the note taker and Emma agreed to chair the meeting

**3) Open Forum** – nothing raised.

**4) 27th November 2021 - Village Craft Event**: Hannah is co-ordinating the event, to date 9 tables have been booked (although this includes a provisional one for the Gardening club which will be clarified after their next meeting on Monday the 25th October). There are 12 tables available for stalls plus teas and coffees from the Chatterbox Coffee Club. Additional tables will be required from the Pavilion and David will make his trailer available to move these. Timing will be 8.00am for hall layout, 9.00am for stall holders to arrive and set-up with opening to the public from 10.00am. Close 2.00pm with clear-up after. The Forum to look at organising a raffle - to include donated and purchased items.

**5) Saturday 23rd October - Village Tidy and litter pick**:- Mentioned in the latest village newsletter. It is unclear if Michael still undertakes his walk/collection but it is expected there will be items in ditches which need clearing – David to create an action list of areas to be targeted. The start point is the Pavilion at 10.00am. Filled bags to be brought to the pavilion as central collection point for Biffa to remove later on the day.

**6) 4th December Quiz**: 5 tables currently booked therefore looking at 4 more. Peter will add posts to the Facebook and Nextdoor village sites to promote the event. Enquiries to Karen. The event needs to be added to the village calendar as apparently this is necessary for the heating to be turned on.

**7) 2022 Events**

**26th February 2022**: Murder Mystery evening – this is booked with the group and Lis Webb will organise the evening. No action required at this stage.

**25th March 2022**: Sugar Craft Demonstration – Hannah has this in hand and will progress over the coming months.

**11th – 18th April 2022** – Marsh Vintage Amusements (MVA) have confirmed that they will look to set-up and run an event on the recreation field over the Easter Weekend. The village has been allocated the Saturday to have as a “Community Day” where it can organise stalls should it wish to. The format for the Community Day is as open as the village would wish e.g. can arrange stalls, a “beer tent”, food, teas/coffees etc.

Access to the field will be assessed by MVA on the morning of the 11th to determine if the ground is viable for vehicles and equipment. If it’s decided the ground is unsuitable and too wet then the MVA will cancel their attendance (with no recourse to the village) – the village would then need to decide if it continues with any plans for the Saturday. A “fall-back plan” would need to be implemented – this needs to be created well ahead of the event.

The village also needs to decide how much it wishes to take on itself and how much it wishes to outsource e.g. beer tent (Peter to provide Emma with the Stag Brewery contact details - done), food offerings (the MVA has a burger stall but possibly a vegetarian/curry option?). Currently the village input to this event is being solely led by Emma through the SPC. Simon confirmed that the Scouts would look to run various activities on the Saturday alongside anything the village itself might wish to run.

Advertising – this has yet to be confirmed but it is down to how the village wish this to be undertaken and how much. Parking – it was raised that this could be an issue if people choose to drive rather than walk to the event, this needs to be considered as part of the whole event not simply the Saturday.

**June 2022 – Queens Jubilee event:** Emma suggested a “picnic in the park” style event where the village provides a basic framework for groups to gather on the recreation field with attendees bringing their own food, drink, blanket etc. It was suggested that the village could look to include a music group and/or entertainment for those attending. This could be an opportunity to use some of the funds currently held on behalf of the forum and/or central funding (as it is understood funding is likely to be available from ABC/KCC/central sources).

**Other items:**

**Sunflower blooms around the village**: Emma is confident that she could source a sizeable quantity of sunflower seeds which could be given out at the April MVA event, for villagers to grow in their front gardens to add a “splash of colour” and interest to the village. This could be coupled with a “village in bloom” style event where villagers are encouraged to brighten up their front gardens – possibly with some competition element/prize to be made available. Peter agreed that the Garden Club would endorse the provision of sunflower seeds.

**External Speakers:** John has started on this although sought clarification as to days when the Village Hall would be available. This is at present likely to be any Monday after 7.15pm, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of the month only and any Friday. Thursdays are generally shared between the Sewing and History Clubs, so if a Thursday needed best liaise with Sheila and Lis.

General Discussion then took place on:-

* How do we have events in the village to encourage more participation?
* Consider “loss leaders” where events are undertaken in the knowledge that they will not make a profit but would be for the benefit of villagers – the Queens Jubilee event could be the first of these.

**8) Club & Group News:**

Gardening Club – next meeting on Monday the 25th October. Whilst this is reported in the village newsletter it was felt that some potential attendees won’t have read this and therefore it should additionally be promoted on the usual village social media platforms. Peter to action.

Coffee club – now in its fifth year, continues with good attendance and prefers the ambiance of the pavilion to that of the village hall despite the more “rough and ready” conditions there.

Scouts – has members from within the village across all three sections (current membership being Beavers 13, Cubs 18, Scouts 18). The scouting group has trialled a “squirrels” section for 4-5 year olds but, without additional leader support, this is not something Shadoxhurst is looking to establish locally. Thankfully the group only lost 2 Beavers as a result of the CoVid regulations (compared to the 25% national average).
Simon is extending the groups coverage to include the Chilmington development until it can support its own group. Shadoxhurst has also supported the re-establishment of the Park Farm Kingsnorth groups.
The Scouts will be supporting the Remembrance Day service at Shadoxhurst Church on Sunday the 14th November – Peter confirmed that the Ark Drama 2000 group will be organising and supporting the Kingsnorth Parade service on the same day.

**9) Parish Council Update** – Emma reported that the SPC have a number of projects underway covering:-

* Recreation Field – drainage works should have started this week.
* Replacement Pavilion building – a simple replacement for the existing building
* Refurbishment of the play equipment – to include fencing to exclude dogs/animals from messing in the area.
* Adult exercise equipment ground surface to be replaced plus possibly the area to be relocated.
* Village Hall – longer term the existing building to be updated with improved insulation, toilet and kitchen facilities.

**10. Any Other Business:**

* Bernard – Made comment that the village should have more control over naming of developments, citing of 4 recent cases only one received the name as put-forward by SPC. Local road flooding was also mentioned, particularly in Lonefield and the corner of Tally Ho, Hornash and Woodchurch roads where gullies are not being emptied/maintained.
* Colin – raised concerns over the timing and quantity of funding required for the planned building replacement/enhancement plus the ownership of the ground upon which the village hall is currently located.

Both of the above are items which would be more appropriately raised to the SPC.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**: Monday 15th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall