

Save Our Stute meeting 14/04/2021

In attendance: ST (in chair), KA, DR, SC, DC, LK, AK, TH, CW, MA, HJ

Apologies from Jane Hackworth-Young and Susan Nixon

Minutes approved from last meeting

Updates / reopening on May 17th

Cleaning schedule and list of dates to be put out to get the Stute clean and freshened up. Dates to include time for decorating, DIY, etc. The stage roof repairs were discussed and it was noted that the exterior was almost fixed and that a plasterer would come and repair the ceiling of the stage.

Bookings were being taken again and a number of events had been planned. Opening hours to be tweaked slightly - make Friday and Saturday the same opening times (12 - 11pm)

ACTION: DR to make contact with Andrew at George Samuel Brewery about the possibility of having a real ale offering.

SC - financial update

Total in bank is £262.82. Accounts have to be to Companies House by 13th June. **ACTION:** SC to have accounts done in time for this deadline.

DC - Volunteer hours update

Hours hadn't been looked at in time for the meeting, DC to email the group with an update.

Committee Update

No committee present at the meeting. DR had spoken to Ricky (Treasurer) who informed DR that the finances were in good shape due to government grants, a further donation of £500 from the RMT and furlough scheme money.

Looking at information coming out from DCC, it is highly likely that we'd receive a 'restart grant' which would further boost the funds.

Members of the group asked what the last energy bill was that was paid in March - Shaun and Ricky were unsure. Group to question again whether to pay out remaining contract in order to find a better energy deal elsewhere.

TH queried whether the BEEP scheme (discussed in previous meetings) could again be looked at. DR explained that DCC need figures given to them by Stute. **ACTION:** Group to urge the committee to swiftly get appropriate figures to DCC.

SHA update

ACTION: LK to help SC with paperwork to get MA her directorship

AOB

Membership

Membership from outside the area - a sub-committee will be formed to look at this: MA, CW, SJ, RT

Mandate can be set up to enable members to donate

Member newsletter to be sent out every 3-4 months

Membership amnesty needed when Stute re-opens

Niall Hammond (FSDR / Heritage Lottery)

DR had conversations / email exchanges with NH about lottery funding bids. Feedback as follows:

- Aim for small grants first
- Need evidence of ownership of the building
- Bids shouldn't just be for the physical conservation of the building - LOTS of activities need to be provided
- Clear evidence of community support needed
- Evidence of track record of delivering projects
- Start small and grow big
- Our group is not experienced enough to ask for big money yet
- The key funder will be the National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Need to send as expression of interest form to NLH

Active Shildon

Group discussed the idea of having some activity groups at the Stute, e.g. keep fit, walking groups, fitness for people with disabilities / impairments

Would need to look at insurance, i.e. public liability / indemnity insurance

ACTION: ST to set up meeting with SOS and Katy Thompson from Active Shildon

Community Choir

DR discussed the idea of starting a community choir. Rosie Bradford contacted and interested in being involved. Looking at Friday evenings and looking at funding avenues to help finance this.

Ticket sales online

DR to trial selling tickets for our events online through our web shop

Next meeting: Wednesday 9th June at 7:15 AT THE STUTE!