

## Beckford Community Village Hall Ltd

The committee held its regular monthly meeting on Monday July 27.

There was discussion of the events of the weekend July 17-19, when many people in the village were disturbed and annoyed by the continual barking of dogs from the Spitz in the Park camp in the hall fields. This was very unfortunate, and occurred because when the booking for the camp was made, no information was given to us about the dog competitions which apparently gave rise to most of the noise. We normally make the field available to campers and caravanners once or twice each summer, with very little disturbance and a welcome contribution to village hall funds: the committee would like to apologise to all disturbed on this occasion, and we will be taking steps to ensure that it cannot happen again.

Some villagers went along with their complaints to the Parish Council meeting the next Monday. It is worth pointing out that, although we work closely with the Parish Council - a Parish Council representative sits on the committee - BCVH Ltd is now an independent charitable limited company, incorporated in 2010 under the Companies Act 2006. With four directors, we are accountable to Companies House and also to the Charities Commission, and our rules say that all voting members of the committee must be residents of Beckford. Some village halls (e.g. Bredon) are owned and operated by a parish council, but Beckford's has remained separate, from its first AGM as the 'Beckford New Village Hall' in 1938 through many years as 'Beckford Community Council'.

Plans for refurbishment and possible extension of the hall are currently under discussion with interested parties: the Bredon Hill practice, Tennis Club, Social Cub and Croquet Club. Meanwhile some maintenance work is proceeding, on the drains (now reported as in 'good condition') and on improving the appearance of the front elevation of the hall. The Children's Play Area had recently undergone its annual inspection, resulting in the need for replacement of the top bar of the swings.

The new defibrillator has now been installed on the front of the hall, and an awareness session was held on July 14. The defibrillator requires a code to operate and is a useful tool which may help when ambulance attendance is delayed. If someone has a suspected heart attack an ambulance should be called and, if a trained person is available, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation should be started. If someone is willing to help who has received defibrillator training, the ambulance control will give the code for the defibrillator, which can then be obtained and used until paramedics can take over.

The village hall website is currently under review. It has proved difficult to use it to run our booking system, and in various ways looks a little dated. It was set up, and is operated, on a pro bono basis, by Richard Jacques of Cotswold Web Services and Geoff Stringer of Beckford Stores, for whose willing help and support we are very grateful. We have appointed one of the BCVH directors to exercise oversight over the website, and are working with Geoff and Richard to define more precisely what should and may be done to improve its performance.

There will be no meeting in August, due to the Summer Bank Holiday, and the AGM will be held in the Village Hall on Monday September 28, when all Beckford residents are invited to attend and to vote. We have a major gap on the committee due to the resignation of our Booking Secretary, Jennifer Berriman, and are extremely keen to find someone to replace her. The role is not over demanding, and is responsible for generating much of the hall's income, through the rental fees received. Will someone volunteer to take this on? The job provides a valuable service to the village. If you are willing to volunteer, or know someone who could be persuaded, please get in touch with the BCVH secretary or chairman.

We shall, as usual, be electing the officers and committee members at the AGM. There are vacancies for Vice-Chairman (an addition which would be very helpful to our chairman, Tony Berriman) and for village representatives from Beckford and Grafton. Nominations or volunteers for these positions will be very welcome.

Graham Galer  
Secretary BCVH Ltd.