

MEDSTEAD FETE AGM

Friday 25th November 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Kervin Labrosse - Chairman
Debbie Bickerdike - Secretary
Ian Bickerdike
Duncan Pate
Melanie Forrester
Manuela Wagner

Apologies:

Martin Simmons
Adam Byford
Lesley Sheldon-Browning
Barbara Rice
Michael Turpin

Chairman's Report

The day of the fete this year was very windy, which was challenging, however we had a record number of stalls at the fete this year – over 50. We drew up a plan/map of the green this year and allocated the stall holders a space – this worked well, was much easier for everyone and was very well received by the stall holders. The feedback we have received following the event was very positive, and we will aim to utilise the arena area more in future to provide a focus for the fete (we have used birds of prey and duck herding in the past with great success).

However, in order to move forward we need more support and help. We have just lost two key members of the team – Adam Byford has resigned after 10 years as treasurer due to work commitments, and Lesley Sheldon-Browning who has been with us for a couple of years looking after the stall holder arrangements, has stood down to increasing number of other commitments (Manuela has agreed to take over from Lesley – thank you Manuela).

This now puts us in a very vulnerable position. We are a growing village, we have new people moving into the village that we are sure have a lot of talent and we would love “new blood” and new ideas.

In order to deliver a fete anywhere near the size we had this year, we will need more help – We are desperate for not only members on the committee (ie Treasurer), but for help on the actual event. We don't physically have the manpower to put on the fete unless we get more help. It is now an urgent situation which we must rectify.

Treasurer's Report

Overall we have had a good year as a Fete Committee this year. Following last years' AGM we received a number of requests for donations and we supported causes within the village to the tune of over £3,300. The causes supported included the Rotary club for the seniors' lunches, riding for the disabled, the school and the bowls club. In addition we purchased and paid for the installation of new weather proof Christmas lights for the green.

The Fete itself was a great day and there seemed to be lots of people around for a lot of the day which is a great thing to see. At first glance the revenue and profit would appear to be down on the prior year. However, there are a number of factors which explain this.

This year 2 stalls that the fete committee has previously run, the Curry Stall and the Croc Smash were not available. Unfortunately Martin who runs the croc smash had a family commitment, and Kervin who cooks the curry could not stand, so neither stall was able to be run. These two stall brought in £435 last year. On top of this we received 2 years' worth of Home's sponsorship in the last financial year which is £400, we did not have this support for this year. This meant that we were lower by £835 in terms of revenue compared to 2015. In addition this year the Tea tent was kindly operated by the WI, and we agreed to split the profits between the fete and other WI supported causes. This change drives a reduction in the revenue from teas of nearly £400 as we received £150 from the WI as the fete's share of the profit generated from what looked like a very popular location on the day. These reductions were partially offset by higher revenue from the BBQ, probably as a result of not having another hot food offering this year and slightly higher collections from the attending stalls.

The expenses for the Fete were less than last year, despite not having any sponsorship for the bar, other than our usual 2:1 with FFF brewery. This meant that beer costs were not reduced by £120 as they were last year. However, by careful review and management we reduced the waste on the BBQ by purchasing less and it was all used on the day with the last few being sold at a reduced price at the end of the day and the expenses for the bar were well managed despite the loss of support for the beer. The curry is also an expensive stall, so although we did not have the revenue we did not have the costs either. This year we had the Punch and Judy show which cost £180 but was a great success with each of the shows having a packed audience. We also had the circus skills again, which is always a big hit with the children.

From a profitability review compared to last year, having no Home's sponsorship, the missing beer sponsorship and the no croc smash meant that over £600 of profit compared to last year was missing. If you strip that from the results then the Fete day itself did generate more money than last year which fits with the committees perspective that there seemed to be more people there for longer than in the prior year.

Thanks again to all those who attended and especially to those that helped. We will be gathering requests for support / contributions and these will be reviewed at the next committee meeting and our decisions communicated to the interested parties.

Requests for Funds

The following organisations have requested funds from the Fete Committee:

Group	Reason for funds	Amount
Helen Bennett	Wings of Life charity cook book	£500
Medstead Cricket Club	Replacement sports-ground roller	£2,000
Medstead Bowls Club	New Bowl gatherers (4 or 6)	£214 or £320
Medstead Village Hall	4 small tables	£260
St Andrews Church Hall	Toilet refurbishment	£2,000

All requests of funds will be considered at the next Fete Committee Meeting (date to be confirmed).

General discussion/comments from floor

The main discussion was around our desperate situation regarding volunteers and committee members – in reality we are not sure whether we are able to continue with such a lack of support. The general feeling from the floor was that this is the same problem as all the groups seem to be facing – an ever increasing village population, but less and less interest from villagers actually wanting to be involved.

We agreed that we would generate some posters/flyers asking for help.

Pat Mitchell (Church Hall) has agreed we can put one up on the Church Hall wall

Kathie Hoff (Village Hall) has agreed we can put one up on the Village Hall notice board

Posters will also be put on the local village noticeboards and some flyers will be produced that we can possibly pop through doors.