

**Minutes of Electronic Correspondence of the Trustees of the
Educational Foundation of Abigail Bailey and Ann Levett
On 1st May 2021**

Participating:

Melvyn Wooding (Chair), Raymond Dyer, Andrew Seaman, Arthur Wright,
Peggy Deards, Sharen Hegarty (Trustees)
Adrian Dale (Clerk)

2021.6 April Caretaker Expenses

The Clerk presented the April 2021 Caretaker's Service Claims and Clerk's report.

	Link to: Rachael Maywood's Service Log	Labour	Supplies
VH	Village Hall Caretaker	£162.00	£16.37
VHP	Village Hall Projects		
SH	School House Caretaker	£40.00	
SHP	School House Projects		
	Sub Totals	£202.00	£16.37
		Total	£218.37

Clerk's Report:

The Hall was closed until 12th April because of lockdown 3. Rachael did a thorough clean before re-opening to ensure that everything was in order for the Ballet Academy to return. Unfortunately, we were plagued by cluster flies. During the warm days, thousands were resting in the heat on the outside fences and walls of the Village Hall. As the temperature dropped, they crawled deep into crevices and under the eaves to get warm. Next day when the heating was on in the Hall out they came – towards the first source of heat – inside! One morning after ballet there must have been several hundred flying around the gable end window in the sunlight trying to get out. They can die very quickly or run out of energy dropping to the floor where the kids (and Lucy) end up treading on them and getting very squeamish. Eagle eyed Rachael had noticed a hole in the ceiling and spotted some dust and a couple of dead flies beneath it. I went up the free standing ladder (18 feet up) and taped over the hole. This seemed to improve things and so I went up again (even more scary second time around as I knew what was coming) removed the tape and filled the hole with white gap filling adhesive. I saw three other small holes in other places and did those too.

The reduction next day was dramatic with only a handful emerging in the same conditions. We had one incident last Monday when Lucy stepped on a solitary fly in her bare feet and got really cross. She intimated that there were hundreds there, but there weren't in the morning before she went in (Rachael checked) and there were only 6 on the window and 1 on the floor when Rachael went back in to check. Lucy did acknowledge later that she had probably over-reacted a little as squashing a fly with her bare feet had made her feel sick. I explained that we were doing our best and that the only alternative to our present tactics would be to close the Hall completely and rip down the ceiling. We would be out of action for a couple of months. I suggested she let us keep going with our present approach. For the rest of the week we saw just 1-2 flies a day at most. I won't say we have solved it but we may have filled the biggest path into the Hall.

As I have reported, Mike Maywood has completed the rebuild of the network and it is running well. I have still got to remove some of the old sockets and make good which I'll be tackling next week. I also have to replace one of the floodlights which has failed. In addition one of our fence rails had gone rotten and had snapped. I replaced this from our stock of spare rails. Unfortunately, we are now out of spare rails, so I'll be getting some more.

Rachael completed the touching up of School House in good time and we were ready for the tenants to move in on 27th April. There were two outside structural jobs remaining, some repointing and some re-flashing around the chimney. The tenant said she was happy for these to happen when the contractors can attend. Michael Farrow was waiting for a guaranteed warm and dry day with a minimal night time frost. This came on Thursday 29th April and he completed that part of the job. I am still waiting for the roofers to give me a date.

The Hall was in use for 54 hours in April, obviously well below normal usage levels. We will be making a loss on these operations until more hirers return. Although some costs relate to the numbers of hours in use, there are some fixed costs (grass cutting, insurance, utility bill standing charges, internet, weekend security checks). I am not concerned about this as School House has been reoccupied with a 20% increase in rent and we have received our Covid grant. Even before invoicing the Ballet Academy for this more, we have a surplus of around £6,000.

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve this report and authorize the payment of the invoices. Cheques were signed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ADRIAN DALE', with a long horizontal stroke underneath. The text 'electronically signed' is faintly visible in the background.

Adrian Dale
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