



Annual General Meeting **Wednesday 8 May 2023, 7pm** Agenda & Minutes

In attendance:

Jon Evans	Officer – Chair	Mike O’Brien	Officer – Treasurer
Hayley Bird	Officer – Secretary		
Trustees:			
Charlotte Shepherd	Tim Gaunt	Anthony Park	Ali O’Brien +11 village members

Welcome – Hayley Bird welcomed everyone to this year’s AGM.

Apologies for absence – Alice Marshall sends her apologies.

Minutes of last AGM & **Matters Arising**: No matters were arising and last year’s AGM minutes were signed.

Chair’s Annual Report – see Jon’s report (attached)

The Chair gave an overview of the achievements in the last year, including thanks to all who have made the events, website improvements, refurbishment, bookings and general running of the hall a great success for another year running. Thanks to all who are using the Hall on a regular basis too.

Resignation of current Trustees

Existing Trustees are willing to continue for another year, aside from Mike who we thank for his Treasurer work and ongoing contribution. The Trustees resigned and supported the reappointment of each other during this meeting.

Appointment of new Trustees

We welcome Andrea Coggins to the team: Mike will be a hard act to follow.

Treasurer’s Report

The Hall has been a financial success over the last year. The receipts and payment account information was provided in the handouts for all attending tonight. On request this information can be emailed.

Utility costs have been reviewed to ensure we have the best deal possible.

Local sponsorship is welcomed from villages in the business. The level of cost of this has been reduced. Please enquire for further information.

Budget is based on events revenue and hall hire. A decision has been made to reduce our provision to enable us to spend a little more on projects this year.

Open Forum

Last year a number of matters were raised which we believe have been dealt with. Are there any further points, comments, questions, or views that would like to be put forward tonight? We value input and would like to align to the needs of the village: please raise any topics or questions now?

An overview of the events planned for 2024 was outlined by Ali to inspire discussion regarding plans or suggestions.

Pub Nights are being enjoyed. For Arts Alive Events we’d like to consider a small stage potentially. The Acoustics need further improvement, despite the positive impact of the curtains. Furniture would be expensive to consider, though soft furnishings would also help. Outside areas can be further considered too. Full fibre broadband installation is also being considered. Energy efficiency initiatives would like to be considered too.

No further comments were raised and so the meeting closed.

Attachments:

Chairman’s Report May 2024

Last year our objective was to get the hall open following refurbishment during 22/23, this year’s objective was to make the hall a financially viable and sustainable facility for the benefit of the local community, I am pleased to report we have successfully achieved that objective as you will hear in our Treasures report.

A considerable amount of praise has to go to the Events team who have been busy throughout the year, organizing hugely successful summer and winter events featuring, Quiz nights, the regular pop up pub nights with our partner Motley Hogg plus a good blend of family and adult orientated fun packed events culminating in the knees up Barn Dance in February, which was a successful sell out and loads of fun.

As you can imagine promoting, organizing and running these events is hard work...special thanks to the Events Committee and all the volunteers that pitch in from time to time to make these events such a success and also special thanks to Alyx for the themed fab bunting it really jolly's the hall up.

Another coup has been the work carried out by Elaine to bring via Arts Alive selected Arts events to the village hall, potentially, this is an exciting cultural development for the village, we will be canvassing at some point to understand more the type of events you would be prepared to support with your presence, more on this will be shared in future newsletters.

Apart from the Events we now have a steady income from bookings, from choir, fitness classes, childrens parties and of course OHN all using the hall on a regular basis.

In order to manage these more effectively we have introduced an easy to use digital booking and payment system to reduce administrative workload...thanks go to Adrienne for taking on the management of that last year.

With regular usage now picking up, we could not continue rely on volunteers to do the cleaning so we have appointed commercial cleaners to regularly maintain the hall and keep it looking spick and span. Also thanks must go to our anonymous benefactor that pays for the lawn mowing which saves us £500/year.

I appreciate we have had a number of parking issues at the hall especially with the extensive building works that have been going on nearby, I hope we are getting on top of these and occurrences are infrequent, however please feel free to report issues to us to investigate.

With limited funds following refurbishment we have not been able to do many improvement projects, however we finally taken delivery of the acoustic curtains as that was a priority, which has considerably helped reduce the echo in the hall, however it has not completely solved the issue, so we will be addressing that further going forward.

We have rebuilt the part stone wall that was in poor state near the footpath steps for which we had a partial grant for and created a new access point for OHN.

We do have a number of internal and external repair/replacement works under consideration these get regularly reviewed at our quarterly trustee meetings for approval. We are constantly on the look out for grant awards, most have an environmental, educational or accessibility flavour which most applications needs to fulfil this criteria to be successful.

We are in the process purchasing a table tennis table for the hall using a sports council grant for part, so a spot of wif waf may be coming to your community hall!

Of course, we always encourage any suggestions you may have as to improvements or ideas for your village hall.

Your trustees remain committed to making your hall a success, but it equally requires your support and I would encourage you to spread the word and invite residents old and new to come along and meet their neighbors at some the varied events that we are featuring this year.

Of course none of this could not have been achieved without my fellow trustees to whom I say thank you. It is however with sadness that we say goodbye to our long standing Treasurer Mike O'Brien due to business commitments who has been a cornerstone of everything we have achieved over the last few years he will be sorely missed, not however for his cryptic humor but for his energy, due diligence and ideas creation especially during fundraising, we will miss you Mike.

I am confident Mike won't be disappearing he will be still there in the background for us.

We are lucky to have co-opted a replacement Treasurer in Andrea Coggins, Hayley's sister. So, a big welcome to the team Andrea we all look forward to working with you.

To conclude I trust everyone is kept well informed on our work and activities and featured events, it's all accessible and regularly updated on the website and thanks to John Sherillo via email, if you are not on his list and wish to be we will put a note onto the website.

That concludes my report for last year.