



Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16th May 2023, 7.30pm **Agenda & Minutes**

In attendance:

Jon Evans	Officer – Chair	Mike O’Brien	Officer – Treasurer
Hayley Bird	Officer – Secretary	Ali O’Brien	Trustee
Diana Tabernacle	Trustee	John Berry	Trustee
Charlotte Shepherd	Tim Gaunt	Anthony Park	+21 village members

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

Apologies for absence – Alice Marshall and Brian Miller-Hall send their apologies

Minutes of last AGM & Matters Arising:

Recognition of service: Robert Lewis was invited to open the Village Hall, in recognition of his many years of service to the Village Hall.

Communication was felt to be an area for improvement at that time too: those without internet access might struggle with the new digital communications, and so we conducted a physical survey which concluded no interest in a leaflet drop. Much hard work has continued to improve communications, primarily thanks to Ali O’Brien, our creative PR genius. The website containing news and information is regularly updated, plus Notice Boards have been donated by the Parish Council.

Resignation of current Trustees

Diana, John, and Brian have done an incredible amount of work through the refurbishment project, and in order to take a break are now resigning from their trustee positions, though have kindly offered their services on an informal basis. Jon, Mike, and Hayley are here today resigning and each 2 voting the other one back in, as we are each prepared to stand for another term.

Appointment of new Trustees

We have been lucky enough to have 3 individuals volunteer and be supported by two others to join our committee. As we have 3 vacancies for Trustee places no vote is required, and we welcome Charlotte Shepherd, Tim Gaunt, and Anthony Park to the team. Thanks for volunteering, your services ongoing will be incredible additions to the team, now that we go into the phase of leading events and bookings within our new hall.

Chair’s Annual Report

It’s been a busy year since we were appointed June last year, with our one simple goal of getting the hall open. At that stage the hall’s new roof was well under way, a lot of hard work had gone before us so I would like to say thank you to the previous trustees and in particular Graham Marsh who was project managing at that time and the Parish Council who secured the loan. With the roof on we finally got access to the hall to survey the work required, it was as you can imagine in a sorry state. We developed an initial budget for works which indicated we would have a major shortfall on our available funds so we knew we had to establish a fund raise campaign.

At the HOPE event on the 12th September which many of you attended we presented our plans for refurbishment and launched our sponsorship campaign along with our buy a brick campaign. We have been amazed at the generosity of businesses and individuals and raised an impressive sum, so from the trustees thank you, it’s been pivotal getting the hall open to this stage. Your generosity has been recognized on the plaques in the foyer and here in the hall.....there will be plenty of opportunity throughout the year to donate. That event was also a great opportunity to recruit some volunteers with wide ranging skill sets to help with the many tasks from painting, cleaning plumbing cabinet fixing etc. Just an example of how valuable the volunteers work has been was the repainting of the exterior, quoted by contractors ranging from £6000 to £9000, and we did it for just £45..... So a huge thankyou to everyone that committed time to the refurbishment work.

To say thank you, we have organized a breakfast event on the 20th May for the volunteers ~~to say thank you.~~

Just to remind you we have a number of 'before' photos of the major works to date, which we are showing here on the projector: you can see how the hall looks as we sit here today, transformed.

Some key aspects that went into creating this are headlined below, in terms of key expenditure:

Exterior painting, creating an instant impact

Ceiling construction creating height and interest

Adaptive lighting to suit various event needs

Practical flooring installed

New DDA compliant front door

Insulation was addressed with cavity insulation

Full rewire with new infrared efficient heating

New fitted kitchen

Accessible toilet

There is still more to do to achieve our ambition of having a hall we can all be immensely proud of and we will be announcing phase 2 of refurbishment in due course.

As you all will know we have a very talented and enthusiastic Events Team: testament to that was the official opening that took place on Sunday 7th May: after five long years of being closed, parishioners, family and friends came together for the Grand Opening and Coronation Celebration of King Charles III. It was a huge success, great fun, and the team well deserved the praise they got.....a big well done and we already we have a number of exciting events in the pipeline and external booking enquiries are gathering momentum.....it's your hallso I would encourage everyone to use it so that we can make it a viable and sustainable facility.

So what next for the VH committee? We will have a phase 2 plan for the Village Hall to deliver against, which will be dependent on available funds,beyond that though we think it would be great if we can develop a common community theme that has the capability to be inclusive and bring the village closer together, with the hall acting as the primary hub.

Ideas that spring to mind would be working together to become a net zero village.....lots of grant aid possibilities with that agenda, or create a nature haven village for flora and fauna we would however be delighted with your suggestions, and in the meantime we'll keep working on it. Finally none of this could not have been achieved without the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of my fellow trustees and it's to them I say a HUGE THANK-YOU, you have been amazing to work with.

The 3 trustees not standing for re-election deserve special mention, Diana Tabernacle who has been fantastic in researching and getting grant funding, thank you Di; John Berry and Brian Miller Hall who between them have project managed the refurbishment of the hall, a huge amount of time spent on site managing and planning activities at the hall. John and Brian both feel their skill sets will not be in such great demand going forwards. As mentioned earlier, I stress all are willing volunteers that will also continue to support us going forwards.

Treasurer's Report

The refurbishment has been paid for from the generous donations of business sponsors and village brick buyers primarily, with some grants coming through for us too. We have a prudent reserve in the bank to cover us for emergencies, and have a small amount left over in our funds currently which will be spent on curtains, needed to help with the acoustics solution. A full set of the accounts has been sent to the charity commission as per regulation requirements, and can be viewed on request by emailing us via the website.

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?

Alex Shepherd suggested after the great success of the Opening Event that a regular pub night would be beneficial. The committee will review this suggestion and check out options.

No further comments were raised and so the meeting closed.