

Whiston Village Hall

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 26 March 2019

Committee members present: Steve Leaver, Anne Cotton, James Wentworth, Elsie Fallows, Flo Tomkinson, Peter Turner, Janet Turner, Ian Marsh, Andrew Mottram, Di Sharman, Jackie Murdoch Ivan Kent.

Apologies: John Russell, Dominic Ross, Claire Faulkner.

Members of the public present: Tracey Mottram and Mark Forrester.

Minutes of the 2018 AGM – Approved as an accurate record, apart from a minor typing error, and signed by the outgoing chair, Steve Leaver.

Chairman's report (Steve Leaver)

EVENTS

Steve thanked committee members and other helpers for the hard work undertaken in organising successful fund raising events during the year, all of which turned a profit. A series of pub nights with food had been arranged, which were profitable from a food sales perspective, but did not generate sufficient interest amongst the local community to make opening of the bar economically viable on an ongoing basis. Reluctantly pub nights were discontinued. Particular thanks were extended to Dominic Ross for his contribution in the organisation of food and to Peter & Janet Turner for their generous persistence in opening of the bar.

A quiz night and a car boot sale had proved popular events recommended for repetition in 2019. The annual scrap metal collection day again proved very worthwhile, returning a good income towards hall running costs. The August Bank Holiday Fun Day had been organised again with moderate success and profit on a day with mediocre weather. The question of inclusion in the 2019 programme would need to be considered by the new committee as the main dog show attraction was unlikely to be available in the coming year.

A Pig Race Night had been held and despite attendance being down on the previous year, a healthy profit had been made. Attendance at a Halloween Family Night was disappointing with only one local family attending. The New Year's Eve event was well attended with a spectacular gala buffet enjoyed by all. Particular thanks to Anne Cotton and her expertly marshalled team of assistants.

A Burns Night Supper was held for the second year running, attracting an increased number of people from the wider area and an increased profit. An unusual experimental Live & Local magic event aimed at families with children was enjoyed by the few that attended and turned a modest profit.

FACILITIES

Peter and Janet Turner were thanked for their overall professionalism in provision of bar facilities to a high standard at both committee organised events and on occasions when the hall had been hired out to the public. Contracted cleaning services had operated well and the newly contracted handyman had made impressive inroads into smartening up the exterior of the premises.

Replacement interior lighting had been fitted with the new LED lights providing better light and a saving in electricity consumption. A pool table had been acquired but had had little use so far. The interior notice boards had been de-cluttered and re-organised by Ivan & Mary to encourage clearer

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display of posters and to promote the hall as a wedding venue. In addition a new outside notice board had been erected at the car park entrance through the efforts of James Wentworth and other helpers.

A new booking mobile phone that could be handed over to another committee member had been acquired to enable continuity of the booking service in the absence of the booking secretary. Redecoration of the main hall had been started to lighten the facility and make it more attractive to prospective hirers.

FUNDING

Kingsley Parish Council had kindly agreed to contribute £1000 towards the main hall redecoration and an as yet unprocessed bid had been made to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for CCTV equipment. Sale of goods donated by the public on E-bay and Easy Fundraising had generated further income.

THANKS

Steve thanked committee members for the support he had received during his year as chairman and also expressed appreciation for the additional helpers from the local community and bar staff from Pop Fishers.

CHALLENGE

The new committee is faced with the difficult challenge of improving community involvement.

Anne Cotton proposed a vote of thanks for Steve's committed leadership and guidance during the course of the year, which was supported by all present.

Treasurer's report (James Wentworth):

James presented the annual statement of accounts for the period up to 28 Feb 2019 showing further continued improvement in the hall's financial position, achieved primarily through valiant fund raising efforts compensating for a fall off in the profitability of hiring of the hall. Reduction in hall hire profits may possibly be explained by security deposit refunds for events booked well in advance, being out of phase with hire payments. It was hoped that recently increased hire charges and improvements to the attractiveness of the hall through redecoration of the main hall would improve hire income in the future. James was thanked for his comprehensive report and also, on standing down as treasurer, for his long and valued service to the committee.

Dissolution of the committee:

The Chairman formally dissolved the existing committee.

Election of officers:

Chairman: Initially there was no nomination for the post of chairperson, but after discussion on the responsibilities involved, Mark Forrester agreed to be proposed by Anne Cotton and seconded by Andy Mottram. Mark was unanimously elected and welcomed as the new chair of the committee.

Vice chairman: Ian Marsh, proposed by Andy Mottram and seconded by Elsie Fallows – elected unanimously.

Treasurer: Tracey Mottram proposed by Ian Marsh and seconded by Anne Cotton – elected unanimously.

Booking Secretary: John Russell, proposed by Steve Leaver and seconded by Flo Tomkinson – elected unanimously.

Minutes Secretary: Ivan Kent, proposed by Di Sharman and seconded by Steve Leaver – elected unanimously.

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Representative Members:

The following stakeholder representatives were accepted onto the committee:-

Kingsley Parish Council – no representative present. (The Minutes Secretary to write to the Clerk of the Parish Council seeking a nomination.)

Whiston Womens Institute – Di Sharman

St Mildred's Church – Flo Tomkinson

Whiston Methodist Chapel – Elsie Fallows

Jubilee Gardens Committee – Ian Marsh

Over 50s Exercise Class – Mauveen Cotton

Whist Drive Group – Richard Leese

Bowls Group – John Steele

Table Tennis Group– Ivan Kent

Co-opted members:-

The following co-opted members were welcomed onto the committee:-

Peter and Janet Turner of Pop Fishers (bar provision), Jackie Murdoch, Andrew Mottram, Anne Cotton, Steve Leaver and James Wentworth.

(The Minutes Secretary is to invite Dominic Ross and Claire Falkner, co-opted members in the now dissolved committee, not present at the AGM, to attend a future ordinary committee meeting if they wish to be considered again as co-opted members.)

Any other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.14pm

IK 27/3/19