

Committee Members Present:

Paul Hammett, Sue Hammett, Pat Audas, Lynette Lloyd, Julian Greatrex, Annabel Caunter, Jackie Gee, Tessa Arrowsmith-Brown, Steve Arrowsmith-Brown. Mark Shackleton. The minutes to this meeting were taken by Sue Hammett.

Members of the Public Present:

Frank Martin, Val Greatrex, Adam Lloyd.

Apologies:

Ros Chilcott, Helen Gay,

1. Matters arising from the AGM 2016

The minutes to this meeting had previously been circulated and they have appeared on the Village Hall website for the previous 12 months. Julian was thanked for his work in planting the daffodil bulbs along both sides of the road through the village; they really look magnificent this year. Julian plans to plant more bulbs during the autumn. All those present agreed to the accuracy of the AGM 2016 minutes. There were no other matters arising.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report read as follows:

"The purpose of this meeting is to inform you about what your committee have achieved during the past year and what our plans are for the future. I will begin by giving the Chairman's Report. Following that the Treasurer will speak about the financial aspects of the village hall and from that point we will simply follow the agenda.

I am happy to take questions at the end of the Chairman's report and at any appropriate point during the meeting. As you can see from your agenda there is a Q and A session at the end of the meeting.

You will all be aware that almost three years ago we made a significant alteration to the then existing constitution of the village hall. I refer of course to the alteration which allows members to serve on the committee for a maximum of three years only before taking a compulsory 'break' of at least twelve months. Although this alteration initially met with some resistance it now appears to be working. During my three term as your Chairman, the entire committee has changed. The purpose of this alteration is to encourage new committee membership, fresh ideas and 'new blood' without anyone viewing committee membership as a 'life sentence'. I firmly believe that this is the way ahead. However, more recently, your committee agreed to modify this change so that now only the 'officers' are obliged to relinquish their posts after a maximum of three years but members may serve for longer if they wish. Notification of this alteration has appeared in the Link magazine and on the Village Hall website.

Turning to the fabric of the village hall. Much has been achieved by the committee this year and the committee during my term as chairman and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the present and past committee members for their support. During the past three years the car park has been extended, walled and fenced, the hall decorated externally, kitchen cupboards installed, extra cupboard space created, the toilets tiled, the sign and floodlight replaced, the area to the rear of the hall improved and our own water supply created. Additionally, we have achieved Hallmark Level 2 and created a very useful Postbridge Village Hall website.

All the mandatory checks and inspections including water purity, fire and electricity have been undertaken recently and satisfactory standards achieved.

All of this work, coupled with the improvements to the kitchen, the ground clearance to the rear of the hall and the introduction of a website have made the hall a much more attractive venue to potential hirers. This is evidenced by a marked increase in bookings this year as well as last. Additionally, increased usage of the hall has resulted in increased revenue as you will see from the Treasurers report shortly.

It only remains for me to sincerely thank lots of other people as well. I would like to thank Annabelle Caunter who has kept the hall in such an immaculate condition. Tessa and Steve for continuing to organize the monthly draw in aid village hall funds as well as becoming committee members along with Julian as our Dartmoor Parish Council representative. Gerald and Annie for remaining as 'key holders'. Helen Gay for her work with the fortnightly whist drives. Bob Martin and John Churchley for tiling the toilets, Sue and Frank for their continued support and last but, not least all of you who support the village hall regularly in so many ways and so very well. I apologize in advance to anyone that I have mistakenly missed out.

Finally, I would like to again sincerely and publicly thank all the committee members for their commitment and hard work over the last year. Village halls do not run themselves and there is a terrific amount of work which goes on behind the scenes which I suspect you may not be aware of.

In particular, Jackie and Pat have now devised a much improved bookings system. Sue has done a sterling job in the media and PR arena, and Pat has given me every support in his role as treasurer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for listening to me”.

3. Treasurer's Report

Pat gave a comprehensive report on the financial status of the hall. A balance sheet, profit and loss statement and current bank statement were issued to attendees. The account has not been audited.

The hall bank account is in credit and the balance today stands at £5,766.28.

The excess of income over expenditure for the FY in question is £943.95

4. Bookings Update

Jackie gave a brief report on the hall bookings. For the second consecutive year bookings have risen as has income from those bookings. Bookings for the future are looking healthy now and many hirers have passed favourable comments about the hall and its' facilities.

5. Health & Safety

As the committee's H&S representative, Lynette reported that all mandatory services inspections have been conducted and satisfactory results achieved. Lynette also reported that the kitchen floor has been repaired and is now in a sound condition.

6. Refurbishment of the 'Potting Shed'

Steve has ascertained that planning permission to carry out the proposed work on the 'Potting Shed' is not required. Pat and Steve conducted an 'on-site' meeting *vis-à-vis* their proposal for the refurbishment of the annex. All those present agreed that the re-build should be carried out as soon as possible and when funds permit. This project will be regarded as the number one priority with regard to funding. The hall does not have sufficient funds to complete this work at present so accordingly funding from a variety of sources will be sought. Julian agreed to approach the Dartmoor Parish Council regarding a donation. Other organisations will also be approached in due course by other committee members.

7. Easter Bingo

Annabel has taken overall responsibility for this event with support from other committee members on an 'as required' basis. Committee members have agreed to contribute towards the refreshments and raffle prizes.

8. Village Hall Monthly Raffle

Steve and Tessa Arrowsmith Brown continue to organise the ever popular monthly raffle which continues to assist in keeping our bank account 'in the black' and is a significant source of annual income. There are 74 contributors at present this year.

9. Nominations of Committee Officers

The Chairman advised the meeting that Pat finishes his term of office as Treasurer in Oct 2017.

Jackie nominated Annabel as Chairman but Annabel subsequently declined. Steve Arrowsmith - Brown agreed to become Chairman for a maximum period of three years in accordance with the village hall constitution. Those present unanimously agreed.

No one present volunteered to become the committee secretary. It was agreed that until a suitable secretary can be identified that present committee members will take the minutes at meetings on a rotational basis. The next committee meeting will take place on Thurs 27 Apr 2017 and Lynette has kindly agreed to take the minutes at that meeting.

10. AOB

- a. Jackie mentioned that at least one hirer had suggested that picnic furniture be provided on the area to the rear of the hall. After discussion, it was felt that at the moment financial priority should be given to the refurbishment of the 'Potting Shed' as previously agreed. Once this work has been completed and providing funds permit, this suggestion will be considered in tandem with external lighting, enhanced safety, the views of immediate neighbours, potential light pollution, etc.
- b. Annabel is planning to organise a summer barn dance on Sat 19 Aug 2017. Detail will be discussed at the next committee meeting (27 Apr 2017). Sue volunteered to contact the DNPA regarding advertising on their website for the event but at the moment there is insufficient detail.
- c. Annabel mentioned that Ros Chilcot has suggested that new pictures/ photographs would improve the hall. This can be considered more fully at the next committee meeting.
- d. Adam and Lynette arrange the rehangng of the hall curtains.
- e. Helen Gay thanked the committee for arranging to have an external light installed.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

The next Village Hall AGM will be held in April 2018 (date to be advised)

The next Village Hall committee meeting will be held on Thurs 27 Apr 2017 @ 7.30pm