

Minutes of the Village Hall Management Committee AGM  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Melanie Goldman read the Village Hall annual report, in Adrian Green's absence and the Entertainments report was given by Marcelle Paton-Smith. The Financial report was delivered by Sylvia Debnam (see attached for all three reports).

Melanie Goldman conducted the AGM and read out the names of the current Elected Members, all of whom are standing for re-election:

Adrian Green

Mel Goldman

Steve Beer

Derek Raymont

Michael Stokes

Steve Beer nominated Marcel Paton-Smith to continue as Chairperson of the Entertainments Committee.

All Elected Members were proposed by Myra Bowman and seconded by Mark Goldman.

All Representative Members from the five appointing bodies remain unchanged.

Myra Bowman stood down as secretary and is replaced by Lizzy Hunkin.

The Adoption of reports and accounts was proposed by Marcelle Paton-Smith and seconded by Mark Goldman.

The date of the next AGM is 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Good evening everyone. I am deputising in the absence on holiday of the Chairperson Adrian Green who sends his apologies. This Combined Meeting constitutes the public Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall charity and after I have read the report of the Management Committee, and Marcelle has read the report of the Entertainment Sub-Committee, for the year to 31 March 2013 we will take a couple of minutes to conduct the formal AGM business.

### **Report of the Management Committee**

The Hall has continued to be well used by a diverse group of users in the year and revenues from Hall rentals are broadly in line with the previous year.

The general aim is that rental charges should be set at a level that pays for the recurring expenses, such as insurance, utilities, cleaning and routine maintenance. As this has been achieved there is no proposal at this moment to raise the hourly charges for renting the Hall.

For purchasing new equipment and significant improvements to the Hall we rely on the fund-raising activities organised by the Entertainments Committee, on grant applications and contributions from the '50' Club and the Parish Council.

During the year just over £3,500 was spent on such capital items. The greatest cost was on new tables and chairs which was announced last year but which were paid for this year and absorbed £2,000. Approximately £700 was spent on replacing three of the overhead heaters and because of their much greater efficiency it has been agreed to replace a further one. A similar sum has been spent on acquiring two quality portable toilets for use at outdoor events. The remaining amount of £270 was spent on smaller items such as replacement table-clothes, water jugs and other utensils.

Some clearing out of unused crockery items has begun in the kitchen to enable improvements to be made in these facilities. A generous grant of £2,000 was received from the local Balsdon Trust towards replacing the cooker with a larger range-cooker and a fast-cycle dishwasher. These improvements will be made in the coming months together with some high-level kitchen cupboards.

Whilst we had a healthy accumulated fund of just over £10,000 at the year end we have other planned expenditure, such as a new sound system. As those who have attended recent events will know the high-level speakers work poorly with the acoustics of the Hall.

A pop-up gazebo is also being acquired to give flexibility at outdoor events, as the experience of last summer has proven that too much shelter is never a bad thing.

There will also need to be some expenditure to address the recurring damp problem on the west wall of the Hall, which has been painted over several times but now needs some more radical attention. There is also a need to repair the car park stone wall at a number of points.

By far the biggest item that may occur, however, is the replacement of the south-facing roof of the Hall which is leaking in places and also, as it is not traditional tile, would be unsuitable for the installation of solar panels, an item which is being investigated. This significant project, if undertaken, would be eligible for various grants but it is useful to have a buffer of our own funds available to provide matching funds if required.

I'll pass over now to Marcelle to tell you how the Entertainments Committee did during the last year and the plans for the forthcoming one.

## **Entertainments Committee Report**

The Entertainments Committee is an informal sub-Committee of the Management Committee. Three members of the Entertainments Committee, Adrian Green, Mel Goldman and Steve Beer are also on the Management Committee but it is not a requirement for membership and it is open to anyone to become a member, contribute ideas and help at events.

During the year five significant events were organised by the Committee beginning with the Jubilee Holiday Scrumpy Stroll over a route planned by Chris and Mackie Poole. Despite atrocious weather there was a tremendous turn out of more than a hundred people who were grateful to shelter in a barn for the Loyal Toast and a warming pasty before returning to the Hall for a BBQ.

The same poor weather dogged the next event, the Music and Beer Festival held towards the end of June. Those many who did attend had a great, if soggy, time listening to local acts and the band Ten Feet Tall. Some of the planned activities, such as the tug-of-war, could not be held and prizes have been held over for another day. Despite adverse conditions it was still a profitable fund-raising exercise which will be repeated this year.

In October there was an 80's Retro Night with food and music inspired by the decade. Everybody had got into the spirit, dressing up in a range of costumes from punks with multi-coloured Mohican's to a Rubik's cube. The 80's themed quiz also showed some surprising knowledge or memories of the decade.

In December there was the ever popular Xmas Fun Night with a 'bring and share' supper. The quality of the acts seems to increase every year and the Committee extends a thank you to everybody who had the courage to get up and perform.

Finally, in March there was the Annual Quiz, which despite clashing with a Stevenstone Hunt event was still well attended. The theme of the picture round was 'pipped at the post' and it proved to be a portent of things to come for the winning team played their Joker only on the final round and pipped two other teams to win by just half a point overall.

In addition to these events the Bar has been opened for the regular First Friday Social Night; for a private party; a skittles tournament; after the Playing Fields Treasure Hunt; for two evenings following the Frithelstock Indoor Rowing Clubs record challenges and for a Xmas party for the rowers and skittlers.

Together all these events and the bar have contributed nearly £3,500 towards funds for the Hall and we thank everybody who got involved in whatever fashion to organise and put on these events.

Those events in planning for the coming year include a gentle Scrumpy Stroll with the theme of a Teddy Bears Picnic on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May and the Music and Beer Festival on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Due to the success of the Retro Night it is likely that there will be another one in October focussing on another decade - the suggestion at the moment is the 1970's but other ideas are welcome.

If you would like to see other types of events organised in the Hall please do not hesitate to pass on your ideas to a member of the Entertainments Committee.

## **The Annual General Meeting.**

The Management Committee consists of Representative Members from user groups and Elected Members. We have not been informed by any of the user groups that they wish to change their representative members apart from the Playing Fields Committee who have advised that following the sad death of John Vickery their representative will be their Chairman Terry Warrington.

All other Representative Members therefore continue in office. They are:

For the Parish Church - Jean Short

For the WI - Sheila Weeks

For the Skittle Club - Arthur Poole

For the Parish Council - Mackie Poole, Roger Hunkin, Eileen Brown, Peter Hutchings and Gale Riddell

There are five Elected Members all of whom have indicated their willingness to remain in office. They are :

Adrian Green - Chairperson

Melanie Goldman - Deputy Chairperson

Steve Beer

Derek Raymont

Michael Stokes

If someone who would like to propose and someone else second, either collectively or individually, the re-election of the Elected Members.

If there are no dissenting votes then the members are re-elected for a further year and at their first meeting will appoint a Chairman.

The officers appointed by the Committee have all agreed to remain in office except for the Secretary, Myra Bowman who wished to stand down. In her place the Committee has appointed Lizzie Hunkin to act as Secretary. I thank Myra for all her hard work over the past couple of years on behalf of the Committee and I also would like to thank all the other members of the Committee and the officers for their much valued contributions.

The other continuing officers are:

Sylvia Debnam - Treasurer

Colette Henerty - Auditor

Jean Short - Bookings Secretary

Maureen Poole - Deputy Bookings Secretary

## **Report and Accounts**

The annual financial statements had been made available.

The Treasurer reported on the current cash balances, figures and the state of the Hall finances.

The adoption of the report and accounts was proposed and seconded.

There being no other business the Village Hall part of the meeting concluded.