

TURVILLE NORTHEEND VILLAGE HALL

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held at the Village Hall on 11th October 2022

Present

Trustees: David Cairns, David Faragher, Susie Phillips, Gina Wessels

Other volunteers: Susan Faragher, Matthew Dawson, Mark Morton,

Other residents: Alice Nuttgens, Peter Langford, Glynis Langford.

1. Apologies

Sarah Evans, Clare Barrows and Cayla Twemlow.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 5th October 2021

Approved

3. Chairman's report

David Cairns (DC) reminded the meeting that there had been a long discussion about the viability and future of the Hall at last year's AGM, when there was a clear desire to keep using it.

Last October we were in the latter stages of the Covid pandemic when some things had started again and some hadn't. In the years pre-Covid there was a full programme of activities at the Hall, but now that we have lost pilates, yoga, the women's meeting and the Hearing Dog puppy training, the only regular booking is the table tennis club and the volume of other activities is quite low. As a result this year the Hall is very reliant on the income from the Nursery and filming. The situation will have to be kept under review.

The Hall is run as a charity and is therefore subject to the regulations of the Charity Commission which are becoming more onerous, more recently in regard to safeguarding and health and safety.

He expressed his thanks to everybody who has helped keep the Hall going, David & Sue Faragher (bookings), Clare Barrows (marketing), Matthew Dawson (accounts) and Susie Phillips (trustee and general help), but pointed out that more help is still needed.

He also reminded the meeting that at last year's AGM he had stated his intention to step down as a trustee and that under the Constitution he would have to step down as the Chairman.

4. Approval of accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021

Matthew Dawson (MD) had prepared the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 which showed total income of £6,507 (compared to £12,648 last year, though that included a £10,000 Covid grant) and expenditure of £3,105 (compared to 3,465 last year). There was a credit balance of £35,752.

The meeting approved the accounts for year ended 31st March 2022.

5. Accounts for the period 1st April to 1st October 2023

MD had also prepared interim accounts for the period up to 1st April to 1st October 2022 showing income of £7,806 (which included the fees for the hire by the Nursery, filming at the Village Hall and a further donation from Charles Hoare Nairne arising out of the filming activities on the Common) and expenditure of £7,155.84 (most of which was the payment for repair works carried out to the roof earlier in the year).

Although there had been a good income during the first part of the year, a substantial amount had been generated by the filming activities at the Hall and in the vicinity of the Common. However, since the summer the Hearing Dog puppy training classes have stopped, so there is now only one regular booking each week (the table tennis club on Thursdays). More general bookings for parties etc. are also well down (currently there is only one event, a concert (it will be the 3rd this year), booked for the months of October and November). This prompted a more general discussion about the lack of use of the Hall and ways in which it could be publicised.

Among the points raised and opinions expressed were the following (in no particular order):

- It is surprising that an attractive venue such as the Hall is not used for more activities such as parties, yoga and pilates classes etc.

- The Turville Northend Village Hall was established to serve the needs of the whole parish. However, it appears that it is now regarded more as the Northend Hall.
- There is no clear channel by which the Village Hall can communicate with the whole Parish. It is reliant on the Parish Council e-mail distribution list and the local WhatsApp /Facebook groups, the Hall website and notices in the bus shelters. At one time a former trustee, Rob Oldershaw and his son put together an e-mail contact list, but this passed to the Parish Council some time ago and it would require a lot of work to re-establish something similar. It would also be a more onerous task now owing to the current regulatory obligations (the UK General Data Regulation, the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations and the Data Protection Act 2018).
- Linked to the previous point, it was suggested that there should be a procedure for contacting newcomers to the area to inform them about the Hall activities.
- The possibility of encouraging the use of the Hall for coffee mornings or similar events, aimed at getting local people together was suggested. Although it was pointed out that there is currently a policy of charging local residents £40 for half a day's use of the Hall in order to cover the basic running costs such as cleaning and electricity etc. though there were certain "free hire" events such as the Hall Christmas drinks, the Lent lunch (which hasn't been held for the last couple of years) and events such as the Platinum Jubilee celebration.
- It was suggested to canvass parishioners about what sort of events they would like to see at the Hall.
- Although the Hall has a Marketing Manager, Clare Barrows (CB), (who unfortunately was not able to attend because of illness) and who has just organised another Wreath making class for the Christmas period, the task of organising events at the Hall requires more than one person. CB had worked with an ad hoc committee to organise the tea party for the Platinum Jubilee and has already

expressed a wish to establish a more permanent committee for Hall events.

- Amongst other suggestions were the possibilities of putting a banner on the front of the Hall advertising its availability for hire as is seen at other Halls in the area and leaflet drops into local shops.
- It was suggested to investigate the availability of grants for financing and encouraging local events.
- The Hall needs help from people with the appropriate knowledge/contacts to champion specific events. The marketing should also be channelled to specific groups; young children, older children, beer & wine drinkers etc.
- There were questions about the Northend Lights evenings and whether there were more planned. The first (pre-Covid) was run by a local resident who bought the drinks and sold them during the evening, which required a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) licence. The second evening was run as a “bring your own” event and was subsidised through the use of the Covid grant. There are no future events in the diary at present.
- The possibility of obtaining a yearly licence permitting the sale of alcohol, instead of obtaining one on an individual event basis, as is currently the case.
- A major issue for the Hall is having sufficient trustees and volunteers to carry out everything that needs to be done. The Hall has been looking for somebody to take responsibility for Hall maintenance and safeguarding for some time without success and it now has to find another Chairman.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was noted that the financial situation of the Hall is still healthy at the moment even though there is currently a lack of events in the diary.

Susie Phillips agreed to arrange a meeting between CB and Gina Wessels.

CB is also to be consulted about the feasibility of obtaining a yearly TEN Licence.

6. Election of Members of the Committee of Management [Trustees]

Under Clause 6 (2) of the Constitution, all Trustees have to retire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

DC expressed his wish to stand down as a Trustee, though he is willing to continue to assist with the running of the Hall in the short term. He also agreed to continue to act as Chairman for the rest of the meeting and the Management Committee meeting. Sarah Evans, though not at the meeting had indicated that she would be willing to continue as a Trustee.

The following were re-elected to serve during the forthcoming year: Susie Phillips David Faragher and Sarah Evans.

7. Noting of the Names of the Representatives of the Committee of Management [trustees]

Under Clause 6 (3) of the Constitution, all representative trustees have to retire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

The following appointments were noted:

- **Turville Parish Council:** Gina Wessels
- **Turville Parochial Church Council:** currently no member nominated.

It was noted that the Hambleden branch of the Royal British Legion had now been wound up and that the Northend Village Association & the Turville Village Association no longer exist.

8. Date of Next AGM

It was decided to hold the next AGM in October 2023, the exact date to be decided nearer the time.