

Aston & Weymouth Village Hall Trustees Annual General Meeting

9th May 2023

Present: Guy Chatburn (Chair), Rosalind Chatburn (Secretary), Miles Scott (Treasurer), Helen Inskip (Trustee,) Vicky Jackson (Retiring Treasurer and Trustee), Andrew and Kate Spiers, Debbie Slater, Michael Kentish

Apologies: Tony Ward, Di Spires

Minutes: The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved.

Reports

The following reports were presented:

Chairman's Report (Guy Chatburn)

Treasurer's Report (Miles Scott)

Secretary's Report (Rosalind Chatburn)

Parish Council Representative's Report (Rosalind Chatburn)

All four reports were received and are attached and will be published on the AVH website.

Trustees

Guy thanked the trustees for their service, who expressed their wish to continue for another year in post. Guy especially thanked Vicky Jackson who had served for an extra year as Treasurer, effecting a smooth handover to Miles Scott. He made a special mention also of Helen Inskip for being the longest standing trustee and her great work in the bar and procurement of drinks and Secretary of the 100 Club. Token gifts were given at the end of the meeting to show appreciation for the trustees' hard work over the year.

Matters Arising

Our Treasurer, Miles, suggested that we would need three fund raising events before March 2024 in order to maintain funds. The excess of expenditure over income for 2022/23 was £9409.19, largely due to the additional investments, upgrades and essential repairs to the hall. A conversation followed for reasons why income was less than expected. Being post lockdown, fewer villagers wished to attend events in 2022 and two events had to be cancelled. The cost of living has also affected people's budgets which is why the monthly coffee mornings, the Jubilee celebration and the Coronation Tea Party were all free entry events, to encourage attendance.

Guy explained that the standing trustee documents required six trustees: historically representatives should come from Parish Council, St Leonard's Church Woore, The Methodist Church (linked with the old church on Minn Bank), Aston School, The Youth Club and the WI. Nowadays we rely on villagers from the community.

The land was gifted by a farmer from Longslow, the aims being recreation, the health and well being of villagers and education via a reading room. In the event of AVH failing, the village would hold a referendum to decide which charities would benefit from the sale of the property.

With only four current trustees we need some new trustee volunteers from the community. Guy reported on the set up of the Events Committee, which is a lighter load for folk and may well grow potential trustees for the future.

Any Other Business

Guy asked for questions and suggestions from the floor.

One observation was that given the generosity of the council's Covid grants, the trustees should be spending the money more quickly on hall improvements and maintenance, for example the garden and display board. A lengthy discussion ensued but it was agreed to remind the gardener to resume regular maintenance. It was also decided to recruit a regular cleaner, possibly employ temporary bar staff at events and buy a dishwasher for the kitchen and glass washing facilities for the bar area.

Miles pointed out that a healthy bank account should have two to three years' worth of reserves and spending at the current rate would be unsustainable. He proposed to create a budget for capital and maintenance expenditure which would act as a guide going forward. He also proposed introducing annual stock takes in the bar. It was mentioned that as typical annual costs for the hall are now running in the region of £8000 pa, three year's reserves would equate to £24,000.

It was in general agreed that the vision of the Village Hall is more about a sense of well being and bringing people in the community together. It was felt that this had been achieved this year from midweek coffee mornings for the retired and homeworkers, through the children's Christmas party to several major all-age events, all of which have had a lovely atmosphere where newcomers were warmly welcomed.

To continue with the theme of the village hall as a community hub another suggestion was to purchase cinema equipment and run film shows. Pub evenings were mentioned, but it was felt that it would be too hard to run by the currently small team with the unusual room layout.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm