



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

Trustees Present: Nick Viney-Chair, John Hynan, Jack Ross, Claude Bonfanti, Rick Gould, Rob Lobley, Claire Barnes.

Attending: Liz Hoad(p/t), Margaret McAllistair (p/t), Jim McAllistair, Tim Hoad, Jenny Hynan, Nicola Brooker, Chris Brooker, Angela Wenham, Mike Wenham, Gaenor Lobley, Jane Viney, Patrick Corbett

**1. Apologies** – James Mercer, Jane Griffiths, Hugh Cochrane, Dawn Cosh,

**2. Minute taker** – Claire Barnes

**3. Minutes of last meeting**

- Matters Arising: The Chair to encourage younger people to engage with village activities and will invite them to a discussion
- It was agreed that the Carols on the Green event in December was a great success not least because £500 was raised for the Swanage foodbank
- Minutes were approved

**4. Chairmans Annual Report**

Nick Viney commented that 2021 had been a strange year with not a lot going on due to Covid but that this year things were waking up. Events such as the lunch club organized by Yvonne, Wednesday night snooker, Book Club and film night were opening doors for more socializing. This summer will bring a big programme of events.

- Claude Bonfanti was acknowledged and thanked by the Chair for taking on the role of village Covid specialist.
- Rob Lobley commented that VH bookings are gearing up again
- The Chair wanted to thank trustees for their work on the building, in particular Rick, Dawn, Jack, John, and the contractor Jerry Burden. Also, John Hynan for being a “rock” on finance matters. Thanks also to Jack, Claire, and Tim Arnold for improvements in village communications

**5. Approval of the Accounts**

- The Treasurer wanted to thank Hugh Cochrane for being the independent examiner of the accounts. There is a requirement to submit accounts information to the Charity Commission in a different way and this was managed well.
- The year started with £61,551 in the bank and ended with £77,661. £17,731 of receipts were linked to Covid grants. This was due to the VH being classed as an entertainment venue and thus lump sum grants and other compensation was offered to cover days when the Hall was closed. PASH generated more income year on year whilst other hiring revenues were very low.
- Payments were up year on year, from £6,378 to £11,109. In particular these were linked to repairs and improvements being made to the School House
- The accounts for 2021 were approved

**6. Planned investments**

- RG gave an update about improvements to Village Hall and School House buildings. Work had commenced at the end of 2021 and approximately 45% of the intended work had now been completed. Most of this

related to damp and structural issues in the School House together with work in connection to the chimney, flue and schoolhouse shed. So far approximately £14k had been spent and a further £16k will be required from this year's budget. There are issues relating to price increases and strained resources which have affected progress. RG mentioned there may be some further unforeseen costs plus more wear and tear issues which have rolled on.

- RG thanked the subcommittee including John, Jack, and Dawn for their support.
- It is estimated that a further £40-50k will be spent in broad terms on drainage (eg guttering) and more external improvements to the School House. Curing of damp in the VH entrance and windows of both buildings are also decaying. RG stated that a potential cost of £40-50k spread over 4 or 5 years might be required to ensure the buildings are maintained in good repair. There are also discussions about improvements being required in the VH kitchen and hall. A budget of £50-70k over a period of 5-7 years is being considered and more detailed discussions will be held with the Committee in due course.
- Jack expressed his appreciation for Rick's involvement, his knowledge and persistence on the repair matters. Also commented that there may be a requirement for some fund raising to cover these costs.
- The issue of a proposal for 50 new VH chairs was discussed as the current chairs are shabby and not considered up to standard for people who may want to rent the hall. Replacement chairs was being led by Jenny Hynan. The cost would be approx. £4,500-£5000. After much research, one of the sample conference chairs was on display and thought to be a worthwhile investment. Margaret McAllistair commented on its lightness and comfort. The VH Committee will discuss with a view to signing this off financially at next meeting.

#### **7. Election/re-election of Committee Members**

Nicola Brooker proposed that all the existing Trustees be re-elected. This was seconded by Chris Brooker. Rob Lobley mentioned the bookings needed someone to step in while he was away in May/June. This to be raised at next Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

#### **8. Events update.**

- Jack Ross commented that the Fete was on track although more helpers were needed, especially in the car park.
- The Jubilee picnic on 4<sup>th</sup> June would be a "bring your own" food and drink so that those wanting to maintain social distancing have the option to do so. Some white tables and chairs will be provided. A marquee will be available should it rain and possibly some music.
- The Centenary event led by Nick Viney July 8-10 was taking up a lot of energy. There is a full programme and it is hoped that people won't want to attend all activities as numbers were limited in some instances. It is expected that some events will be recorded and posted on the website should people unable to attend. The event will certainly provide background history for people new to the village. The National Trust were being encouraged to participate and share what their plans are in light of their recent purchase of Weston Farm.
- CB mentioned the launch of Sustainable Worth and that there was a page on the VH website which outlines the mission statement and provides information about activities. Sustainable Worth is being led by Kathy Hollidge with Liz Hoad and Yvonne Spencer also involved.
- Nicola Brooker mentioned that it would be beneficial for the environment and nature if people reduced their garden lighting. Perhaps an article in the Dubber about this would be appropriate was a comment. Kathy Hollidge will be taking this forward.
- Village open gardens are being planned for the weekend of 17/18 June.

#### **9. AOB There was none**

#### **10. Date of next meeting.** Committee will meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> May