



Dobcross Village Society Limited Annual Members' Meeting Minutes 2026

13 September 2026 at 1pm at Dobcross Band
and Social Club

33 members and 1 non-member attended the meeting. Apologies for absence were received in advance from three members.

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Nathan Beckwith opened the meeting by greeting attendees and introducing the management committee members.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Members Meeting (14/9/25)

Approved as read

3. Report presentations (Reporting period: 14 September 2025 – 13 September 2026)

Summary of Chairpersons' Annual Report by Nathan Beckwith

- Annual revenue is approximately **£227,000**. Sustainable growth through customer service, product range, suppliers & high shop standards. The Post Office remains an essential village service
- Loyalty card holders exceed **800**, up from almost 600.
- Successful Whit Friday and Taste of Christmas events
- Volunteer team continues to grow. Management Committee has also been refreshed
- Priorities: Store improvements, Growing membership, strengthening volunteering.
- Thanks to staff, especially Tim Newbold who stepped down after helping establish the new business

Summary of the Secretary's Annual Report by Chris Mills

- Thanks to Management Committee members who stepped down during this reporting period.



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- Current Management Committee & resignations
- Meetings and committee activity: A retail sub-committee established. Business Strategy developed.
- Total membership at the end of the period: **136**
- Member share capital **£35,347.08** at the end of the reporting period.
- Priorities: Membership strategy to improve awareness & increase membership by 20%. **£4,200** grant to support store health and safety improvements.

Summary of the Treasurer's Annual Report and presentation of Accounts by John Warham

- **Year-End Accounts and outlook:** Awaiting year-end accounts, but a basic profit and loss review suggests a trading loss of around **£4,000**. Retail sales for the year were **£205,571** (ex VAT) 1 increase of nearly 8% on Year 1. Healthy cash reserves of **£41,400**, up from **£35,500**
- Average weekly sales rose about 7% to **£3,953**
- Post Office income rose 18% to **£12,791** excluding VAT.
- **Trading Expenditure:** Stock purchases were **£169,341**, nearly 18% higher than last year. *No year-end stock check was completed.* (Estimated stock figure £10,800)
- **Running costs:** excluding staff and rent, rose from £11,386 to **£15,747**, mainly due to inflation, higher turnover, insurance (increased 25-26), energy and a prior-year misallocation. Staffing costs were **£54,958**, up 4.5%. £8,000 rent prepaid and accounted for in the previous year.
- **Financial Compliance and Administration:** Bank with the Co-operative Bank plc. Accountants are Jackson, Brierley, Harthan of Uppermill

4. Election of Management Committee Members

- To elect the current Management Committee en bloc: **Carried unanimously**

5. Members' Vote on Ordinary Resolutions

- To disapply the requirement for a full audit for the financial periods 2023-2025 and 2025-2026 but requires an independent accountant's Report: **Carried unanimously**
- To approve JBH Uppermill as our accountants: **Carried (one vote against)**



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6 Members' Vote on Non-seconded Motion from the Floor

- No motions were submitted prior to the meeting
- To disburse Charity Card funds to support Dobcross initiatives only **(14 votes for; 11 votes against; 10 abstentions)**. This is a non-binding advisory vote for consideration by the Management Committee.

7 Questions from Members

Financial

- Q: It was reported that the trading loss for 2025/2026 was £4,000. If the £8,000 rent had not been paid in advance from the grant, would the trading loss have been £12,000? **Yes.**
- Q: Pricing, inflation (e.g. utility costs) and stock control were identified as the main factors contributing to the £4,000 loss. Should prices be increased? **Yes, and prices have increased. Protecting margins and increasing footfall are priorities to move the Society into surplus.**
- Will we see a full stocktake before next year's accounts? **Yes, A stocktake is scheduled for this year with 2 x physical stock takes planned each year**
- Q: Running Costs: Why have both the insurance costs and utility costs increased? **Due to inflation and staying with the same providers.**
- Q: What is driving the gap between cash rising £5,900 and the P&L showing a £4,000 loss? **This is unusual. The discrepancy could be due to an underestimation of the stocktake figure.**
- Q: These are described as unfinalised, basic figures. When will shareholders see the final accounts? **The final accounts were received on 11/9/26. They will be published after review.**

Membership

- Q: Is shareholders' money protected if a member wishes to withdraw their share? **Yes, funds are held in the separate savings account.**
- Q: What drove the resignations, and is committee capacity/succession at risk? **The resignations were from people who were involved in purchasing the business. There has been a handover of roles and original members continue to support the Committee.**



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- Q: What specific actions will close the gap to the 20% membership target?
Implement the Membership Strategy to increase awareness of membership & benefits. Existing members to be advocates. Encourage existing loyalty card holders to become members.

Governance

- Q: What are the top three risks facing the Society in the next 12 months? 1/
Paying suppliers 2/ paying staff 3/ protect margins. A risk register manages key risks.

- Q: Was this report submitted for a full review by the Management Committee before circulation to members? **No**

- Q: Who is currently responsible for day-to-day shop management? Does the new manager report into the Management Committee on progress against targets at the monthly meetings? **Michelle Dady-Hegg is the new manager. She has attended the management committee to update on shop performance.**

Retail - Card payments & Loyalty card scheme

- Q: What is the cost to the business if people pay by card? **Card payments cost £200 + £30 card machine hire per month. The business is changing card provider which will save £400 per year.**

- And should there be a minimum spend of £5 on card payments? **Current minimum spend is £1. Young customers in particular pay using their phone apps**

- Q: What is the value of the loyalty card scheme to members? **1% of a member's total spend, redeemable when a member has earned £5.**

- Q: Is the loyalty card reward money that customers haven't redeemed recorded on the balance sheet as a liability? **Yes**

- Q: What is the difference between being a shareholder or just a Loyalty card holder? **A shareholder has an ownership stake and can take part in running the Society Loyalty card holders have a transactional relationship earning points based on the value of their shop spend.**

Retail - Marketing and product promotion

- Q: Has the Society considered a marketing campaign to promote shop products, particularly as prices are not significantly higher than those elsewhere? **Yes. This is being taken forward by the Retail Subgroup**



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• Q: "Refurbishment and Shop Standards" Can the Chair give one or two concrete examples of improvements made to the shop this year, and what is planned for the year ahead? **Grant funding for H&S improvements to stockroom & kitchen area.**

• Q: What are the new store manager/retail sub-committee's plans & remit/objectives? **Protect margin, increase footfall & basket size**

8 Action Points

- Complete 2 x stocktakes each year
- Publish Report & Accounts
- Consider scope of Charity Card donations
- Treasurer report to Management Committee on financial KPI's every 3 months
- Deliver Retail Strategy (increase revenue, footfall, basket size)
- Deliver Member Strategy (20% increase in member numbers)
- Improve understanding of Loyalty Card scheme

9 Dates of Next Meetings

- Half Year Members' Meeting, **Sunday 18th April 2027**, 1-3 pm at Dobcross Band Club
- Annual Members' Meeting, **Sunday 12th September 2027**, at Dobcross Band Club



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