

Whilton Village Hall Management Committee

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held 24th July 2024

Present : Ann Gilbert, (Chair), Sarah Hardman, Gill Martin , Barry Lewis, Brian Melling and Cathy Battison

Mary Kane, the bookings secretary was present along with 16 other residents of Whilton or representatives of groups that use the Village Hall. Yvonne Clements who was representing Maurice and his father Horace Clements was also present as the guest of honour.

	Action	By
1.Welcome & apologies Apologies received from Tony and Neeta Hebb Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing so many people attend.		
2.Recognition of the Clements Family The committee wanted to take this opportunity to recognise and commemorate the contribution that Horace and Maurice Clements have made to the acquisition of the village hall for the village and the entrance to it. Ann gave a summary of the history of Horace moving to Whilton from Whilton Locks as a child and as an adult becoming an active member of both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. It was Horace that led the initiative for the Parish Council to purchase the village hall once it was no longer a school. He also recognised that the school entrance through the garden of the old schoolhouse was not viable for the new use of the hall. He offered some land which became the new entrance and porch area on a long-term lease for a peppercorn rent to benefit the hall users. Maurice stepped forward to take over these roles when Horace was no longer able to. He became the chair of the trustees following in his father's footsteps and becoming almost a caretaker of the hall. When Maurice moved out of his house next door the trustees became concerned about the strip of land that was leased. Yvonne became involved and offered her support to ask Maurice if he would sell the land to the village hall. Maurice generously gifted the land which has now been transferred and along with the village hall, registered at the Land Registry to the Parish Council, on behalf of the Whilton Village Hall Trust. This has secured the use of the hall for future generations. Maurice gave his apologies as he was not able to attend the meeting but a huge thank you to Yvonne for representing the family and for all her hard work liaising with various parties to complete the transfer of the land.		

<p>The committee commissioned a plaque which has been put up in the entrance porch to express thanks on behalf of the parish. There was a concern Maurice may not be able to attend today so Yvonne kindly bought him to the hall on one of his weekly visits to check on High Glenn a few weeks ago so Maurice was able to see the plaque before it was put up.</p>		
<p>3.The minutes of AGM held on 24th July 2024 were agreed (Proposed Teresa Leadbetter and Seconded Mary Kane)</p>		
<p>4. Matters arising – There were none</p>		
<p>5. Treasurer report, 200 club and activity report</p> <p>The village hall has 3 bank accounts as below with balances for end of year 2024 accounts:</p> <p>Treasurer £1674.72 200 Club £1296 Savings £6907.96 Petty Cash £247.62 Total £10,126.30</p> <p>The main income for 2024 was from the hire of the hall.</p> <p>Main expenditure is insurance, which was nearly £1000, electricity and general maintenance.</p> <p>So far in 2025 the committee have installed sound baffles, heaters in the toilets, cleared the back garden and put weed control down and installed a new gallery system to enable exhibitions to be held easily in the hall.</p> <p>Barry explained that he is currently in the process of completing a 5-to-10-year plan of capital expenditure and running costs.</p> <p>In 2023 the accounts showed a £368 surplus but in 2024 this became a £342 deficit due to the increase in running costs (electricity and insurance). In 2025 the running costs are estimated to be £4000.</p> <p>The Parish Council gave the Village Hall a grant of £2500 towards the costs of the sound baffles and will give an annual contribution of £2000 to support the hall.</p> <p>We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support to maintain and improve the facilities for all to use.</p> <p>We would also like to thank all those residents who have run or supported a range of activities such as the quiz nights, pop up pub, Coffee Delights and The Creative Group which create income for the</p>		

<p>hall and more importantly bring the residents together and ensure the hall is used regularly.</p> <p>The 200 club has a first prize of £75, second prize of £50 and third prize of £25. To fund this we need to sell 100 tickets which has been achieved for 2025 as we sold 102.</p> <p>The Chair said that there is now a regular pattern of events taking place in the hall including The History Society, Garden Club, Book Club, Creative Group, Pop up Pub and Quiz nights which are the biggest fund raiser.</p>		
<p>6. Activity Report</p> <p>The Village Hall is well supported by a core of regular groups including The History Society, Garden Club, Book Club, Creative Group, Pop up Pub and Quiz nights which are the biggest fund raiser.</p> <p>There was also an Easter Egg hunt which attracted approximately 19 children who spent some time in the spinney trying to solve the clues and then spent several hours back in the hall doing craft activities.</p> <p>The hall now also has a new hanging exhibition system which Gill and Neil spoke about. In September this will be used for an NROS exhibition which will feature 5 artists. Lucy Gow is also planning an exhibition in October and the Creative Group plan an event early next year.</p> <p>Neil has updated the Whilton News website to include a section for Whilton Arts Community. This includes sections on artists and their work, the new gallery system, upcoming exhibitions and hiring the hall. All local artists are encouraged to get in contact via the link on the website if they would like their profile/work adding to the website.</p>		
<p>7. Resignations and confirmation of committee members</p> <p>Confirmation of committee members:</p> <p>Ann Gilbert – Parish Council rep – Currently Chair Sarah Hardman – Whilton Gardeners Association rep – Currently Sec Brain Melling – Whilton Local History Society rep Cathy Battison – Book Club rep Gill Martin – Bell Ringers rep Barry Lewis – Whilton Locks rep – Currently Treasurer</p> <p>We would welcome representatives from other groups or people standing as a resident.</p> <p>We would also welcome other people who would be prepared to volunteer some time on an ad hoc basis for projects or events.</p>		

Teresa Leadbetter proposed and Jane Melling seconded.		
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>Gill Denbigh spoke about a recent incident during one of the Creative Group meetings regarding parking. This has always an issue around the hall and some members of Gill's group need to park close to the hall as they have to carry equipment in. There was an instance recently where a resident had to go into the hall and ask for a car to be moved as they could not get their horsebox past. The car was moved promptly. Gill has reminded all the members of the group to park thoughtfully. Gill asked if it was possible to ask Mrs Seth Smith to cut back some of the hedges which are overgrown and then some cars could be parked there. Randal Smith (Chair of Parish Council) said he would investigate this.</p>		
<p>9. Thank you's</p> <p>A special Thank You was delivered to several people:</p> <p>Yvonne for her help securing the entrance hall land Mary Kane, bookings clerk for nearly 40 years Neil Philips, quiz setter and master Richard Bunce, who organises and runs the pop-up pubs Tony Hebb, for signing off last years accounts Slaw Bejm and friends for running the Coffee Delights event The Cleaver family and friends for organising and running the Easter Egg Hunt Randal and the Parish Council for their continued support of the hall</p> <p>Anyone else who has been involved and supported/advised and generally encouraged with events and improvements in the hall</p> <p>A final thank you for all those attending the meeting and showing interest and support</p>		
The meeting closed just after 15:10		