Whilton Village Hall

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held 18th May 2022

Present: Maurice Clements, Janet Bowers, Shirley Brown, Patricia Dominici, Ann Gilbert, Anthea Hiscock, Helen Camps

Mary Kane, the Bookings Secretary, was present. along with twelve residents of Whilton

1. Welcome & Apologies

Ann Gilbert welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing so

many people attending the meeting, especially after several years when no residents had been present at AGMs.

Apologies were received from committee members Nick Busby, Philip Grant. Gordon Seal.

Also by email from Nick & Danuta Jackson, residents

2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th January 2020

Approv ed

3. Matters Arising

There were none

4. Financial Report

Shirley Brown, the Treasurer read out the current position at the end of December 2021. The balance held at the end of 2021 at ££20,838 was about £1,000 down on the previous year but this was accounted for by the loss of income from hiring during the pandemic as no other groups apart from the Pre-School had used the hall until the end of the year. The income from rents was a mere £1,707 and the expenses for the year amounted to £3,701, so there was an imbalance which would need future consideration.

A question was asked from the audience about the raising of rents for hire and it was explained by the committee that this hasn’t been undertaken during the last two or three years, but will be addressed this current year relating hire fees to the expense of running the hall.

Shirley was thanked for the accounts and for continuing to produce them for so many years.

5. Activities Report

Anthea Hiscock gave a report of the activity since the previous AGM more than two years ago and talked about the difficulties presented to the committee by the pandemic, the increase in cleaning and other preventative measures which had to be imposed on the hall . She described the fact that the Secretary, Nick Busby had identified the opportunity and successfully bid for, a grant of £10,000, to assist with the negative impacts of covid on village halls. Nick deserved particular thanks for this as the grant had enabled the refurbishment of the hall and kitchen. Anthea described the attractive look of the hall and the spacious feeling, the new kitchen which offers more space and modern, labour saving and economic equipment and some of the other improvements including the installation of broadband which should take place shortly. Anthea also read out an interesting piece in the local paper from 1961 when the building had been transferred from the Peterborough Diocese of to the village of Whilton and the struggle which the residents had experienced in raising enough money to buy and update the premises to use as a village hall.

Ann thanked Anthea for a lively report.

6. Confirmation of New Committee

Ann explained that the way in which the committee operates is directed by the rules contained in the Trust Deed and that every year the management committee stands down and then a new committee is formed of local people in three categories

i representing local groups

ii three places are elected from residents

iii two people may be co-opted on to the newly formed committee

This year the new committee will comprise :

Group Representatives

Bell Ringers and Church Janet Bowers

Parish Council Ann Gilbert

History Society Anthea Hiscock

Whilton Gardeners Assn Sarah Hardman

Whilton & Brington

Pre-School Trisha Dominici

PCC No-one yet nominated

Three residents stood for three places :

Helen Camps

Rachel Edkins

Gill Martin

The co-options of two further members for their particular skills, experience or knowledge may happen once the new committee begins its work.

7. Future Plans

Members of the committee talked about the various improvements and that more are planned. It was also confirmed that it’s the wish of the VH management committee to expand the activities in the village hall and to do this successfully the committee would like to hear what residents would like to see. The question again arose about the rents for hiring the hall and a committee member said that there needed to be an understanding of the details of the costs of hiring out the hall to different hirers and that perhaps in future storage would be part of the hire cost.

A question came from the audience regarding the lack of available storage as the Pre-School appear to have a monopoly at the moment – this was confirmed by the Pre-School representative who said there might be some room available in the overhead storage which is accessed by a ladder. The questioner from the audience stated that she would not be using storage which required access via a ladder and questioned the suitability of regular use of this storage area. It was agreed that this issue needs further investigation.

Mary Kane raised the issue of noise as the hall is in such close proximity to a residence. It was pointed out that the end wall of the hall abuts the School House. It was established that there is a general understanding that events should not carry on much longer than 10.30 or 11pm and that users should be reminded about the level of noise potentiallyu causing a nuisance to the occupants of the School House.

The Pop Up Pub events were voted particularly popular and committee members agreed that they would like to see more of these being held.

A list of possible new clubs/activities put forward is –

Book Club

Film nights – including Art House type films

Chess Club

Yoga or similar

Bridge Club

Table Tennis

8. Any other Business

Agreed that the single socket in the hall, which is currently broken, must be replaced with something robust as soon as possible.

Also pointed out was the fact the Vilage Hall sign on the front door cannot be seen when the door is open for an event and suggested that there should be a sign on (an improved) front gate.

Finally

All retiring committee members were thanked for their input to the committee over the last few years, but there was a specially warm acknowledgement of the input from Shirley Brown who has been undertaking the demanding role of Treasurer for at least the last ten years. Anthea presented Shirley with a bouquet of flowers and a thank you card signed by all present.

The meeting ended at 8.20.