**Whilton Village Hall Management Committee**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held 27th September 2023**

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

Mary Kane , the bookings secretary was present along with 15 other residents of Whilton or representatives of groups that use the Village Hall

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| 1.**Welcome & apologies**  Apologies received Janet  Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing so many people attend . Apologies were received from committee member Janet. Special mention was given to Doug who has done so much work maintaining and improving the hall in the last 18 months , and to Randal , Chairman of the Parish Council who have supported the hall to help with these improvements. |  |  |
| 2.**The minutes of AGM held on 18th May 2022** agreed |  |  |
| 3. **Matters arising** – There were none |  |  |
| 4. **Activity Report**  Ann explained that there is a misconception that the Village Hall belongs to the Parish Council, but in fact it is held in trust and belongs to all the Parishioners. The Village Hall Committee make decisions on behalf of the Parishioners and therefore it is important that feedback is received and idea’s/concerns shared.  The Village Hall received a grant in 2020 to make improvements such as the new kitchen, chair store and additional store cupboards. This work was carried out by Doug to a high standard and his effort and attention to detail is much appreciated.  In addition to this there have been several unexpected maintenance works required such as updating the electrics, fixing a leak in the roof, new lighting, and re-hanging of the panelling. The Parish Council have been great supporters of this work especially the installation of the new more energy efficient heating system. There has also been a new water heater installed and additional plug sockets.  Last year we asked what activities people wanted and there were lots of idea’s. We all wanted to do as much as possible but soon realised that with limited time and resources this might not be possible. However there have been 2 new groups running for over 9 months that have proved very popular. The Book Club meet every 6 weeks, and anyone can just turn up to this. Whilton Creative Group has 16 members and is currently full, but a waiting list is being held. In addition, the pop up pub is being held regularly as well as the quiz. |  |  |
| 5. **Treasurer Report**  Barry Lewis took over as Treasurer in March 2023 after Sarah had temporarily been doing this role.  Opening balance for the year was £8655.32  Current balance is £8331.23 which has reduced by £351.96 from last year but more income is expected before the end of the financial year.  As everyone is aware the cost of living has increased, and this has affected the Hall. Electricity prices have increased, as well as insurance which is nearly £1000 per year.  Thank you to the Parish Council who have supported with approximately £6000 in funding to support the improvements made.  **The 200 Club** was suspended in March but will return in the autumn with new rules and prize money.  In brief:  Annual ticket will be £18 each, households can have multiple tickets and can join part way through the year.  There will be a draw every 2 months at the VHC meeting – ticket holders are welcome to pop along to the draw, in fact it is encouraged!  50% of all money will be used as prize money and the other 50% will be used to support the Village Hall. The more tickets sold the bigger the prize money. For example, if 100 tickets are sold the prize money would be:  1st £75  2nd £50  3rd £25 |  |  |
| 6. **Resignations and confirmation of committee members**  Janet and Rachel have resigned from the committee.  Janet was a long term member of the committee along with many other groups in the village.  Rachel provided valuable knowledge and assistance in developing policies for the VH such as Safeguarding and GDPR.  We wish thank both of them for their valuable contributions over the last year.  Confirmation of committee members:  Ann Gilbert – Parish Council rep  Sarah Hardman – Whilton Gardeners Association rep  Brain Melling – Whilton Local History Society rep  Cathy Battison – Book Club rep  Gill Martin – restanding as a resident  Barry Lewis – previously co-opted and now standing as a resident  We would welcome representatives from other groups or people standing as a resident.  We hope to have a representative from the Whilton Creative group but would also welcome other people who would be prepared to volunteer some time on an ad hoc basis for particular projects or events. |  |  |
| 7. **Future plans**  The hall is available to hire for a one-off event or for new groups. This is not limited to just people living in the Parish. More opportunities are welcomed to make use of the hall.    Current plans for improvements are to look at:  Sound baffles - as the hall can get loud sometimes such as on pub nights.  Toilets – are cold and damp.  Porch – is tired and needs to be made more welcoming.  It was raised that disabled access to the hall is currently limited to access thought Mrs Seth-Smiths Garden. It pointed out that this had been previously discussed by the committee and agreed that we would investigate if any grants were available to address this.  It was also raised that just outside the front door is a small step in the concrete which has caused a person to slip. This can be looked at in conjunction with the disabled access.  Also discussed was the possibility of being able to hold Art Exhibitions and the options to be able to facilitate this. The Arts Centre at Yardley Hastings was suggested as a good example to view and give ideas. |  |  |
| 8. **AOB** none |  |  |
| 9. **Thank you’s**  Special thank you’ s and small gifts were made to:  Doug Scott who is now retiring, thank you for all your hard work in the hall.  Mark Kane, bookings clerk  Richard Bunce, who organises and runs the pop-up pubs.  Janet Bowers for her long service on the committee |  |  |
| The meeting closed just after 20:00 |  |  |