**Whilton Village Hall Management Committee**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held 24th July 2024**

Present : Ann Gilbert, (Chair), Sarah Hardman, , Barry Lewis and Cathy Battison

Mary Kane, the bookings secretary was present along with 20 other residents of Whilton or representatives of groups that use the Village Hall

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| 1.**Welcome & apologies**  Apologies received from committee members Gill Martin and Brian Melling,  Also, Jane Melling, Jenny Holman and Adrian Lee.  Ann welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her pleasure at seeing so many people attend.  She also told the attendees how beautiful she thinks the hall now looks with art from the Whilton Creative Group and special mention was given to Neeta Hebb for her wonderful artwork that has been donated to the village hall and really adds to the community feeling in the hall. Neeta to do a presentation later. |  |  |
| 2.The minutes of AGM held on 27th September 2023 were **agreed** (Proposed Teresa Leadbetter and Seconded Lucy Gow) |  |  |
| 3. **Matters arising** – There were none |  |  |
| 4. **Treasurer Report**  The Treasurer reported that:  There was a small surplus in funds last year mostly due to the 200 Club monies being paid in before the start of the financial year in January.  Currently over the 3 accounts we have £8,500. Out of this figure we have committed to:  Running costs until December 2024 e.g water, electricity etc £500  Tutor fees for creative group £500  Replacing the heating in both toilets £750  Repairs to the roof £700  This leaves roughly £6,000 available if we don’t consider future income and unplanned expenditure.  We would 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 hall and more importantly bring the residents together and ensure the hall is used regularly.  We would also like to thank the Parish Council who have been extremely generous during the last 12 months supporting WVH with grants to cover the roof repair, registration of WVH with the land registry and the drawing up of a new plan of the hall which totals more than £2,500.  With increasing costs, it will always be a struggle for the WVH committee to balance revenue against costs. The insurance alone is nearly £1,000 plus licencing and the fact that the building is very old. Therefore, the promise by Whilton Parish Council to include WVH as a budget heading as from 2025, is extremely welcome and the committee is most grateful, as no doubt will be all residents.  The 200 club was re-launched in 2023 for the coming year of 2024. In all we received ticket sale of 93 @ £18 per ticket totalling £1,674 and total prizes of £150 at each draw (6 in total), WVH will have an income of £774 for 2024 from this. |  |  |
| 5. **Activity Report**  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.  Along with this the committee have been updating the hall policies such as health & safety and the safeguarding policy. There is also an updated Inventory of all VH resources.  New heaters have been purchased for the toilets and these will be installed in the next few weeks.  Improvements to the entrance porch are underway and the area is to be painted and tidied up. It was previously discussed about purchasing a ramp to make the hall more accessible. This is still on the agenda but not the highest priority.  Sound proofing in the hall is the top priority. Feedback has been that the noise within the hall does put some residents off from either attending events or staying for a shorter time. The process of investigating the options has begun and visits will be made to other halls that have noise baffles installed.  **Noted** – Lucy Gow asked that the committee investigate noise baffles that go in the roof space rather than on the wall, so no space is lost to display items on the wall.  Ann then explained that when the hall was a school, the entrance was through the garden of the Old School House. When the school closed it was bought for the village from the diocese, the old entrance was no longer viable. Horice Clements allowed the new entrance path and porch to be built on his land adjacent to the hall and it was rented by the Parish Council on a 99-year lease for a peppercorn rent. Maurice Clements carried on this agreement after Horice died. Once Maurice became unwell it became clear that the entrance to the hall might become an issue if he was to sell his house. Ann worked with his Power of Attorney (Yvonne Clements ) to discuss the options around this piece of land. Maurice has very generously agreed to donate this land to the village hall and thus secure the entrance for future generations.  The Parish Council have agreed to provide a grant for the cost of the legal team to complete this process which is well underway but as with anything legal will take some time to complete.  The AGM should be held in April each year but due to various factors was not until September last year. Next year it will be moved back nearer to its rightful place in April. |  |  |
| 6. **Resignations and confirmation of committee members**  Confirmation of committee members:  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  We would welcome representatives from other groups or people standing as a resident.  We would also welcome other people who would be prepared to volunteer some time on an ad hoc basis for projects or events. |  |  |
| 7. **AOB**  Teresa asked the committee if the rental rates for the hall would be increased this year.  Ann confirmed they did increase last year but there were no plans for further increases this year.  Residents - £10 per hour for private functions  Non-residents - £15 per hour  Charities by arrangement  **8. The History of the Village Hall – Neeta Hebb**  Neeta is currently doing a MA in contemporary art and as part of the residential module was tasked with selecting a place and then creating a piece of art about it.  Neeta told how she had interviewed residents from the village, some of whom had been involved with the VH for decades. She then related what she had learned on the history of the village hall and all its uses from the time it was built as a school, when it was sold to the parish, and the changes to it over these years.  The pieces of art produced have kindly been donated to the hall and will stay displayed for all visitors to enjoy.  Special mention was given to Janet Bowers, a long-term resident of Whilton and former WVH committee member who was able to provide Neeta with a lot of detail on the history of the both the hall and Whilton as a whole. Also, in the artwork is a poem written by Brain Melling.  All **agreed** that the artwork was a great asset to the hall and enhanced the community feeling within the hall. |  |  |
| **9. July 200 Club draw**  Drawn by residents Mary, Teresa and Roy  1st number 39 - Randal Smith £75  2nd number 43 – G&A Heeley £50  3rd number 120 – S Toone £25 |  |  |
| **10**. **Thank you’ s**  A special Thank You was delivered to several people:  Neil Philips, quiz setter and master  Mark Kane, bookings clerk  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 meeting closed just after 20:15 |  |  |