

## Clapton & Wayford Village Hall

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Apologies:** Frances & Roger Franklin, Adrienne Pyke, Craig & Gale Taylor, Charlyne Barrett, Oliver Pyle-Santini.

**Chairman:** Frank Freeman not well enough to attend meeting & sent apologies; Reg Mussett, standing in, wished him well.

**Minutes of AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021:** agreed & signed (proposed Mike Elliott, seconded Rosemary Jeffery; all present in favour.)

**Matters Arising:** none

#### **Chairman's Remarks:**

Chairman Reg Mussett welcomed all present & thanked them for attending, commenting that, despite the legacy of Covid, the hall is 'getting back on its feet'.

Majority of old hirers have returned, and a few new ones have been acquired. Unfortunately, it has not been viable to re-introduce the monthly lunch club, but this has been replaced by a monthly coffee morning. Thanks expressed to Julia Borland for the cooking, as well as for the occasional big breakfast catering.

The annual accounts have been audited, deemed to be clearly presented, and signed off.

On Frank's behalf, Reg thanked all the committee for their ongoing support at meetings and events, in particular secretary Mary Wilson for her careful documentation & minute keeping. Also Julia Borland for her capable catering at many events, and treasurer Barbara Woodward for diligently looking after the finances.

Other local volunteers were also thanked for their input and support.

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Audited accounts were presented & formally adopted by the meeting (proposed Marilyn Ashby, seconded Rosemary Jeffery; all present in favour.) Thanks expressed to Martin Davies for auditing, and to Barbara for clear presentation of accounts.

Total in 3 accounts at the end of the financial year was - £17,811.29; £4,925.38 down on 2021 (current acct - £11,956.07; savings acct - £5,520.14; buildings acct - £335.08).

The treasurer explained that the hall has still been in Covid recovery mode throughout the past financial year, but new groups are slowly coming forward, and the old ones have almost all returned. All things considered the financial situation - with the help of volunteer run social/fund raising events - is not too bad.

A free jubilee tea had been organised by the committee, which was very well attended, helping to raise spirits, and also some generous donations from those attending.

A grant (£2,058) had been received to help with Covid recovery (see under 'Grants & Funding'). Donations from both Parish councils have also been extremely welcome.

A telephone line & internet have now been installed, which was a large expense, but it is hoped it may encourage a wider range of hall hirers, and may lead to 'computer classes'.

Cost of fuel will increase, in line with national expectations.

***Buildings/Improvements:***

Reg Mussett (Buildings Group chairman) reported that it had been a difficult year, as our Caretaker Roger Gardiner had been involved in a bicycle accident early in the year, causing him to be unable to work for several months. Trustee Frank Freeman had been covering many of the essential odd jobs, especially in the garden & grounds. Frank thanked for this, all done on a voluntary basis.

Jobs included keeping the building & grounds in good and presentable order (e.g. cutting grass, attending to weeds/potholes etc, painting, external cleaning, carpet cleaning, & general maintenance - inside & out.) Reg read out a list of jobs which Roger & Frank had carried out.

Two Ash trees had been professionally felled, one of which was dangerously overhanging a neighbour's property, and breaking branches from both were likely to fall into the car park, possibly damaging cars and/or people.

A new project hoping to get underway in 2023, is to extend on to the east side of the hall, to provide extra room space, and additional disabled facilities, particularly for the meeting room/kitchen end of the building. This will mean the meeting room space can be let independently to anyone, whatever their situation. Extra storage will hopefully be incorporated, making the hall more appealing for clubs who need to store equipment.

*Questions arose from the floor –*

‘Will a child sized toilet be incorporated?’ Reg agreed to consider the viability.

‘Would the extension wall make the hall darker?’ ‘No, with modern materials & additional windows light levels won't be affected.’

‘Will the existing heating system cope with heating the additional space?’ ‘Extra heaters, like the new ones fitted in the main hall last year, will be used.’

Efficiency of new electric heaters was demonstrated at the AGM.

***Hire Charges & Payment for Energy:***

Mick Wilson explained that the current cost of oil represents approx. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the payment for hire during the months when heating is required.

Some users turn on oil heating for the main hall much earlier than is needed, which is costing the hall almost as much money as it recoups for the hire.

The new electric heating in the main hall is very efficient (heating people rather than the building), and hirers have been asked to use this on arrival, paying via the coin operated slot meter.

The trustees have agreed to maintain hire charges at their previous level, at least for the current accounting year. Additional energy costs will be recouped through use of prepayment meter.

Now need to address heating for meeting room & kitchen.

***Grants & Funding:***

The re-opening grant (£2,058) outlined at 2021 AGM, has now been successfully used. A publicity flyer was delivered via Royal Mail to 10,893 houses in the hall's extended catchment area. This has raised the profile of the hall and its excellent facilities, eliciting several new bookings, as well as additional enquiries.

The small amount of residual funds remain set aside to offer start-up session(s) to new users, to reduce the financial risk they would have to make in trialling a new venture. This had so far, been given to one new user. The trustees would particularly like to encourage an activity for younger children (such as a playgroup/mother & toddler etc). Two enquiries had been made, but neither were taken forward by the proposer.

***Events/Social report:***

In the absence of Adrienne Pyke, Julia Borland gave a short report on events past & future.

After a shaky start in September 2021, the first successful post Covid event was a pre-Christmas, festive coffee morning, kindly organised by Gale Taylor, which gave the events programme an excellent start. Since then, two highly successful, and much welcomed, jumble sales have raised £850. Whilst the work on the day is hard and intense, jumbles provide a good income with no outlay, and very little advance preparation.

Other events include a most interesting illustrated talk by Anne Mosscrop, revisiting her Land's End to John a' Groats trip, a welcome return of the popular 'Big Breakfast', and monthly coffee mornings. Customers seem reluctant to book in advance, hence the first breakfast for over 2 years, more or less sold out of food, leaving a few 'casual' would-be breakfasters disappointed.

Our Jubilee celebration was a wonderful, free, afternoon tea, enjoyed by all who attended. This included catering for most food intolerances, a huge & beautifully decorated cake (thanks to Lorna Pyke), a well decorated hall, a quiz, music, and audio visual footage of the queen's life. A sparkling local wine toast, concluded a memorable day for all attending.

*Three events coming up in the near future were promoted:*

A big breakfast on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Anne Mosscrop's Himalayan Trek - an illustrated talk, on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

A completely new event – South Somerset Youth Orchestra & Friends, presenting a seasonal concert, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

Julia thanked all members of the events sub-committee for their dedication & hard work, and encouraged more volunteers to make themselves known to help in any way they are able. She also thanked Mary Wilson for regularly creating flyers & posters for all events, and Frank Freeman for producing the stunning roadside advertising boards.

A questioner from the floor asked if Take Art events were likely to be re-introduced. The answer given was 'it is on the radar, but accommodation is often required, which is one of the main challenges, as well as the work load in organising, promoting, & booking such events'.

#### ***Coffee Mornings:***

Julia Borland began by stating that 2020 & 2021 were strange times for us all, with the lack of social meetings being very challenging. Conscious of this, we decided from January 2022, to hold a coffee morning on the third Wednesday of each month. The main hall, with its space & easy access, would provide somewhere for people to meet, eat, & talk.

Bacon/egg rolls cooked to order, along with freshly brewed coffee, cakes, scones & pastries, are all available for those who come along.

It has been interesting to see people attending catching up & just spending time together. All ages come along, with the youngest being only a few weeks old in September, and her great grandmother, the oldest at 89 years old.

Thanks were expressed to all who help and support each month, and in turn, to Julia for facilitating such good, social occasions.

#### ***Film Society:***

Mick Wilson reported that attendance had much improved in this 2<sup>nd</sup> post-Covid year, with membership up to 40. There is an increase in number of members from Winsham. The membership fee had remained the same (£22 for 8 films), but guest tickets had increased to £5, due to increases in licences & cost of DVDs. Chairs continue to be put out in stacks of 5, so people can take their own chairs & place them where they feel safe, & have a good view of the screen.

#### ***Bowls Club:***

Richard Jeffery reported that the club, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> season, was again meeting regularly. New members are always welcome; the first session is free, then £3 per week, including coffee/tea & biscuits. The club owns plenty of equipment to lend, & no previous skill or special clothes are necessary. It is a good social evening.

#### ***Sew, Knit & Natter:***

Julia Borland reported that the small but friendly group continue to meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. There is no real need to bring any knitting or sewing, if you just want to join with others to natter. £2 per session for tea/coffee, 'naughty but nice biscuits', and a good chat in the warm.

#### ***Other Societies:***

No other societies replied to the invitation to speak or send in a report.

Contact details for all clubs can be found on V Hall website & leaflets in the hall.

***A.O.B:***

More use of the big screen would be welcomed, since the facility is installed, and the hall has a TV licence, and internet access. An example of use was the festive music & pictures/videos projected for the pre-Christmas coffee morning thanks to Mick Wilson – this could be done for any occasion if someone is prepared to put a presentation together.

Julia & Mary once again made the point that more volunteers were needed, as much as new ideas. Without offers of help to implement any new ideas, they could not happen.

***Election of Committee:***

As usual a plea had gone out in advance, for new volunteers to join the trustees & serve on the management committee, in particular for reps from other societies using the hall; none were forthcoming.

Time or skills from volunteers are also welcomed and appreciated; not necessary to join the full committee.

Julia Borland – rep for Wayford PCC.

Richard Jeffery – rep for Bowls club.

Mick Wilson – rep for Film Society.

Remaining 7 members were willing to stand again for the coming year: 6 - Mary Wilson, Adrienne Pyke, Charlie Swaffield, Barbara Woodward, Reg Mussett & Frank Freeman – elected en bloc, proposed Rosemary Jeffery, seconded Mike Elliott, meeting agreed.

Oliver Pyle-Santini to be co-opted at next committee meeting he attends.

Chairman again expressed thanks to all. Thanks to the trustees expressed from the floor.

***Next meeting:*** to be arranged in autumn 2023.