

ALSTONEFIELD VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the Alstonefield Village Hall and Community Centre was held at Alstonefield Village Hall on Wednesday 12th. June 2019 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Martin Snodin, Margaret Cohen, Frank Lipp, Sue Lovatt, Jo Griffin.

In attendance Cathy Reavy, Debs Railton and Mandy Domville.

Apologies: Ian Longdon, Ken Sharples, Val Littlehales, Dave Littlehales, Jill Benghiat.

Chairman: Martin Snodin took the chair.

Minutes: The minutes of the last A.G.M. held on 5th June 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

Treasurer's Report: Margaret Cohen presented the examined and signed financial report for the past 12 months 1st April 2018 to March 31st 2019. This is filed with these minutes. She highlighted the following points:-

Lettings were down in value, but this was due to late payments by the bowls and friendship groups. The figure for fundraising relates to profit from the car boot sales and Indoor Market. The income from Concerts is shown separately, and after deducting the expenditure, the overall profit from concerts remains at the high total of around £3,500. Although heating costs look high, this is because of a late submission of an invoice for oil delivered in February 2018 and paid in this financial year. This year, the financial statement, shows additional village hall assets amounting to just over £1,600, which are the floats held by committee members for the concerts, bar and car boot refreshments.

The treasurer's report was adopted unanimously.

Chairman's Report:

2019 is my first AGM as Chairman - something neither I or anyone else expected this time last year - and it's a role I've taken on during the year effectively by default (because I was nominal vice-chairman), following the untimely and incredibly sad death of Jean Allen just 7 months ago. Jean was so committed to the Hall and the village - and loved by so many people - that I couldn't hope to come close to emulating her role, which in truth was much wider than simply being the Committee's chair.

Our governing rules, of course, require that all of us as committee members step down at the end of the AGM, with continued membership needing to be confirmed by re-election. So it may well be that my brief stint as Chairman has indeed been a very temporary one - the decision on who will be chair for the next year is the first item on our agenda following this meeting. All I can say is that Jean cared so very much about the Hall that she spoke of it even in her last few weeks, and was apparently comforted to know that the person picking up the reins shares her passion for wanting this place to be a well-maintained and friendly village hub.

But I'm not the only person with such a passion, which is the reason that the Hall runs so successfully. We have an incredibly committed committee but, more than that, we have people **not** officially on the committee who nevertheless lend a hand to make sure the various user groups and events work successfully. Just look at the support we get in the kitchen for car boot breakfasts, the concert team, and the village turn-out that makes Leaden boot the event it is. And there are many more unsung helpers who get actively and happily involved throughout the year. So to everyone who has helped this vital community hub, I want to express my thanks, as I'm sure Jean would also have wanted.

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As to the year gone by, Margaret's report has summarised all we need to know about the healthy state of the Hall's financial stability, which should be a central focus for us as trustees. But we also have duty to ensure the place is well-maintained and fit for purpose, so it's pleasing to be able to report that we've continued to make modest improvements to the facilities - the dishwasher, water heater, janitor cupboard etc - without making any noticeable dent in our finances - and that we are in a position to look at some further improvements in the months and years ahead. The hall floor is soon to be re-furbished; re-decoration is pencilled-in; and re-surfacing the car park is something we can hopefully begin to look at before too long, with or without grant aid.

Looking forward, whatever *my* role, one priority for us is to look at our constitution, which is no longer fit for purpose. We have an opportunity to correct a couple of legal flaws (something we'll no doubt discuss under the next item) and at the same time consider moving to a more modern model (known as a CIO - a Charitable Incorporated Organisation) that might suit us better, and actually help attract and retain committee members in the long term.

To finish, I just want to say a couple more 'thank you's'. It looks like Sue Lovatt will not be up for re-election, which will be a huge loss in terms of her membership, although I'm sure her support for the village will be little affected. So thank you, Sue, for all you have done (and thanks to Dave Lovatt, too). I don't really want to single out other members, but I must thank Margaret for her superb work both as Secretary and Treasurer. And off the committee, I want to thank Pauline Hambleton, who goes the extra mile in keeping the Hall clean and tidy, despite her busy family life.

Representative Members:

The Parish Council has declined to have a representative member because, since all decisions must be made by the Council, a member alone cannot give advise without prior consent of the council. The following representatives of active groups, which now use the hall, have agreed to serve on Alstonefield village hall committee. They were nominated and unanimously appointed.

Friendship club	Mandy Domville
Parochial Church Council	Val Littlehales
Alstonefield Cricket Club	Steve King tbc.
Mother and Toddlers Group	Jo Griffin
History Group	Margaret Cohen

Elected Members:

The following agreed to serve on the committee as elected members and were elected:-

Martin Snodin
Frank Lipp
Dave Littlehales
Debs Railton

Co-optative Members:

The following members were co-opted on to the Committee:

Ken Sharples
Anne Morgan
Ian Lonogdon

The members present signed "**The Declaration by Members**".

Matters Arising - None.

A.O.B: - None. **The meeting closed at 7.15 pm**

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