

## **Minutes of the Enford Village Hall Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Present:** Judy D'Arcy-Irvine, Anthony D'Arcy-Irvine, David Spencer, Maggie Maund, Ollie Stagg, Hannah Tucker, Sally Parker, Hamish Scott-Dalgleish, Jane Young

**Members of the Public:** Mandy Farrow, Lowenna Harbottle, David Harbottle

1. **Apologies:** Jacquie Elkins, Kevin Bennetts

2. **Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015:**  
The Committee had reviewed the minutes at the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 meeting and agreed that they were a true and accurate record of the AGM. The accounts had recorded a small surplus of £779 for the FY 2014/15. The user groups had been successful with events doing well.

The maintenance of the VH had adopted a 'stich in time' approach and the VH was therefore in good condition.

The Youth Club had had difficulty getting enough volunteers to assist.

The Enford Football Club and all other clubs had been doing well, were enjoyable and well attended. Fete profits had been good and a generous donation made.

Four committee members had been elected.

The Minutes were approved as a true record - proposed by David Spencer and seconded by Sally Parker.

3. **Matters Arising:**

Broadband could be provided via a WiBe box from Tesco Mobile at a cost of £10 per month. A charge of £15 was made to hirers to use the facility during meetings and events, and this had been working well. There are 2 gigabytes per month available and the charges levied should cover costs.

4. **Treasurer's Report including Annual Accounts 2015-2016:**

Hannah Tucker reported that the annual accounts had been independently audited by Kim Riche.

Income totalled £15,729.97 and Expenditure totalled £12,480.45 giving a surplus of £3,249.52. There was £1,646 additional income this year as more weddings and private functions had been held. Events, such as 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'A Christmas Carol' had done well and expenses were down on last year. Licenses had been paid this Financial Year. The cost of the new floor polisher was included in the final accounts.

The bank account stood at £34,832 but this included £25,000 which was in the process of being reinvested. In addition a further £13,000 was held in reserve.

It had been a good year with a healthy bank balance after investments had matured and been reinvested. The only forthcoming major capital was annual redecoration and replacing the stolen benches. If the heavy wooden round tables were replaced with lightweight ones it would cost around £2,500.00. Hannah confirmed that £470.18 was held within the accounts on behalf of the WW1 Event.

Lowenna asked if any new benches will be more securely fixed. Judy suggested that the new ones could have the VH postcode engraved on them and an alternative way of securing them would be investigated so that they could not have their fittings sawn through again.

Judy said that the VH needs good quality benches but there had been no insurance claim regarding the stolen ones. This was because replacement costs would equate to the excess on the insurance policy and the loss of our no claims discount for three years.

Judy asked for suggestions for facilities which the VH could implement and provide. She had researched the cost of a tennis court which would be over £30,000 with ongoing maintenance. It was suggested that a skate park would be better situated nearer to the play park on land at the top end of Grants Road.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by David Spencer, seconded by Sally Parker and agreed unanimously.

##### **5. Chairman's Report:**

Judy said that this year had again been very successful and she thanked everyone for their hard work and support. There had been lots of weddings and private functions this year and many said Enford was the nicest VH in the area.

Judy also said how very sorry we are to have lost Steve Becker as Deputy Chairman as he is moving away from the village. He has done a huge amount over the past four years both helping with repairs and maintenance and also organising various events and helping run the Film Club. We are looking for volunteers to step into his shoes. Bushan Vohora has offered to help with the electrics and help run the Film Club together with Clive Bullen. Other volunteers would be welcome.

Judy also thanked David Spencer for helping with maintenance and Hamish Scott-Dalglish for his hard work keeping the grounds in such good condition. She thanked Kim Riche for auditing this year's annual accounts and Hannah for running them.

The VH would not be in the strong position it is today without the support of all members of the community, the Parish Council and the Fete Committee. Judy thanked them for their generous donations which help keep hire charges down for everyone.

The past year has been very successful and hirers often comment on how the Hall is maintained to a very high standard. Hire charges should be able to remain at their current level for another year – the simplified format makes them much easier to understand. We do need to market the hall in a competitive market to ensure we cover running costs and expenses. At the moment, bookings for next year are down but hopefully this is only temporary.

Judy said that we cannot always rely on volunteers giving up their time to help maintain the building but are very lucky that committee members continue to do so, helping with events and repairs. We also continue to give concessions to some groups as an important contribution to the community.

Hallmaster, the online booking and invoicing system, is working reasonably well. Judy suggested renewing the licence with them in November as it is beneficial that other designated committee members can access and use the system as well as hirers being able to check online when dates are available. It is linked to the Newsletter and the new Wiltshire Village Halls Association website.

The Fete and Fireworks Events are very popular due to the Fete Committee arranging these so successfully.

It is difficult to attract new recreational and sporting clubs as organisers, teachers and volunteers are needed to get these started. If anyone would like to help set any of these up, the Committee can promise full support.

All user groups are continuing to run successfully. The Film Club screened nine films this year and continues to be popular although more volunteers would be welcome. There were two very successful concerts and two theatre productions all of which attracted record audiences. Ollie Stagg and Steve Todd work very hard with the children's Saturday morning coaching sessions. The Enford Football Club is continuing to play in the Salisbury Sunday League with a couple of home matches each month.

Judy said that the Youth Club had been closed since May as they needed more volunteers to help out. There is no date for reopening as yet but she was hopeful that the club would start up again in the near future.

Future Events include Hallowe'en and Fireworks on 29<sup>th</sup> October, the Remembrance Sunday Lunch on 13<sup>th</sup> November, and a theatre production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Judy thanked everyone again and asked if anyone had any questions which she would be pleased to answer. There were none.

## **6. Maintenance Officer's Report:**

Apart from the minor flood due to mice eating through water pipes there was nothing to report. The mouse problem had been dealt with by Wiltshire Council Pest Control Department. There had also been some electrical problems which up to now Steve had dealt with but hopefully Bushan will deal with these in future.

## **7. Grounds Officer's Report:**

The football pitch needed holes infilling and this is an ongoing problem. Hamish asked if there was any help available to deter rabbits. Mandy said she was aware of a non-hazardous, sulphur fertilizer product which may help repel rabbits as it has a very strong, unpleasant smell. Mandy undertook to liaise with Hamish regarding the feasibility of using this product

Hamish said that he had laid a rubber parking grid near the retractable bollards to protect the ground during wet weather. We must now wait to see how it beds in and then decide if more of it will be needed.

## **8. Reports from Community Groups and User Group Representatives:**

### **Community Groups:**

a. Parish Council: The over-riding need was for an upgraded and bigger playpark. The children of the village mainly live in the Water Lane and Grants Road area of the village and this was a much needed facility. A skateboarding area has also been suggested together with allotments, both requested through the Parish Plan.

Wiltshire Council had agreed in principal to allow the land they owned to be used. There would be a serious funding need for these projects which had been requested through the results of the Parish Plan.

The last time Wiltshire Council had been asked for assistance the plans had fallen through but WC had requested a further application for them to consider.

b. Parochial Church Council: The pattern of church services had changed as attendances had dropped. All Avon Valley services had changed but the new timings were on the website.

A grant for £100K had been applied for to maintain the church roof. Lowenna said that the blanket appeal had raised over £2,000 and the work had taken more than a year to put together. There will be a jazz concert in November.

c. Enford Newsletter: The Newsletter now had Claire Burge as Chairman and Diane Christie and Sue Cosgrove as Editors. They were to have their first meeting in October with a view to publishing the Newsletter in November. Kim Riche was running the website.

d. Parish Plan: There was a request for all Minutes etc. produced by village organisations to be published on the websites to ensure transparency.

### **User / Club Groups:**

a. Youth Club: There was nothing to add to the information Judy had provided earlier in her report. It was hoped the Youth Club would start again soon.

b. Enford Junior Football Club: Ollie said there was little to report with Steve Todd now running the Saturday morning club. A new coach had been employed, new equipment had been obtained and funds were healthy.

c. Short Mat Bowls Club: This club was doing very well with 20 members. 14 to 16 of these are players who take part in local competitions.

d. Film Club: Nine films had been shown in the last year with a break at Christmas and in the summer. There are currently three helpers but more would be very much appreciated. The nights rarely run at a loss and have made an annual £912 profit. To break even, there needs to be 20 people attending and there are usually about 40. The September film 'Our Kind of Traitor' had been highly recommended.

e. Camera Club: This club was in its 8<sup>th</sup> year with 10 regular members and 5 or 6 other people helping out. Subjects had included Firework photography, and a 'Then and Now' event with old and new photographs superimposed on top of each other which looks very effective. Time-lapse photography and 'The Golden Ratio' were also subjects covered. A visit to Thruxton race track had been undertaken to photograph motor sport.

Some photographs are displayed in the pub and have been sold in Pewsey's post office and at the Church Bazaar together with the annual calendar.

f. Gardening Club: The first meeting of the new series had been held the previous week after the summer break. Various interesting speakers are arranged for meetings but they can be expensive to book and costs are not always covered. More publicity is needed to attract additional people to the club and, with a good varied programme next year, it is hoped that this will happen.

g. Enford and Chisenbury Fete Committee: Amanda Farrow reported it had been a reasonably good year. The Fireworks event had been good and nearly as profitable as the previous year. It is always a good night if the event can be held close to Hallowe'en Night itself.

The Fete had been 'interesting'. The weather around Enford had been appalling and numbers were therefore down. There had also been an electrical power cut and Richard Pettit and Martin Webb had brought in generators so that teas etc. could be made. Despite this, the Fete had done well and, although numbers were down on the previous year, there was still a profit. The Fete Committee thanked the VH for use of the facilities and Hamish for arranging the insurance and helping with ground works for the event. There was an acknowledgement that Steve will be very difficult to replace. The committee also wanted to thank the Camera Club for their time-lapse photography which looked great and had been put on the Newsletter website.

This year's fireworks event will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October and posters will advertise the event throughout the village and in the VH. The Committee wanted to thank all in the community who attend and help out. Volunteers are always welcome.

The ECF has raised approximately £20K in 10 years. As a result, there will be posters displayed saying well done to the villagers and also informing them where the money has been spent. Smaller posters will be put up in the pub too.

Judy took the opportunity to thank Mandy for her hard work and Mandy said that there would shortly be an application for funding and if people knew of anything that would benefit the community, to let her know.

#### 9. **Election of Four Committee Members:**

Judy invited those present to stand as committee members. Judy suggested re-electing David Spencer, Hannah Tucker and Jane Young to the committee and also suggested electing Maggie Maund in place of Steve Becker. This was proposed by Hamish and seconded by Amanda. Hamish remains a co-opted member and the other committee members are made up of the Club and User Group representatives. They will be elected at the November Committee Meeting as laid down in the Charity Commission Foundation Document.

#### 10. **Any Other Business:**

Hamish undertook to continue grass cutting for the foreseeable future but if he decides to end this task, a contractor may need to be employed at a cost of £3-4K per year. Ideally, volunteers would be asked to help keep costs down.

There being no other business to discuss, Judy thanked everyone for their attendance and reminded them that the next AGM would be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

