

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Woolavington Village Hall

Held on 25th November 2023

1. Committee Attendance:

The following members/trustees of the Village Hall Management Committee were present:

Chairperson Eddie Marsh - appointed member of the Parish Council

Vice Chairperson Mick Bowden - appointed member for Woolavington Handbell Ringers

Treasurer Alan Thompson - Elected Member

Jan Wyness - appointed member for the Craft Group

Mo Retford - appointed member for Woolavington Afternoon Group

Doris Marsh - appointed member for the Women's Institute

Heather Kerton - appointed member for Woolavington Village Primary School

Carolyn Stroud – appointed member for the Parochial Church Council

Apologies from Committee Members:

Jean Manning – Bookings Secretary – Elected Member

Rachel Smith – appointed member for Little Nippers

Martin Draper – Co-opted Member

Public attendance:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM:

The minutes from the 2022 AGM were considered and agreed as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from them.

3. Chairperson's annual report:

The Village Hall continues to be a popular, welcoming, and well used asset to the community. As you will hear from the Bookings Secretary the reputation of the hall has spread far and wide. The hall is financially secure as you will hear from the Treasurer.

Without those dedicated volunteers who make up the Village Hall Management Committee, the hall would certainly not be as successful as it is, and I would like to thank them all for their support to me and their commitment and input in managing the hall during the past year. We continue in our efforts to recruit more volunteers to the committee as we do need fresh, modern ideas and activities to enable the hall to thrive and meet the needs of the whole community.

One of our ongoing projects has been the decarbonisation of the village hall. Two of the 5 phases of action have been completed. The upgrade of insulation and the installation of solar panels and batteries has not gone entirely smoothly but we now have a working system which is helping to provide electricity to the hall. The next phase to replace the hot water system in the hall is imminent and should be complete by April next year. The

important and most expensive phase – the replacement of the heating system is still in the process of being funded. Several applications for funding have been submitted to various grant making organisations and we have been successful with some but not with others. What we do not want is for our 22-year-old gas boiler to fail and require replacement because, at this moment in time, we could only replace it with like for like. We will continue to work hard at raising the necessary funds to complete the project.

The Village Show held in early September was a success, particularly in involving the children of the village. The fruit and vegetables part of the show was less successful, and it has been agreed at committee that next year we will hold two separate events. In August, a 'Fruit Vegetable and Produce Show' run by Woolavington Allotments Association and supported by the village hall committee and in September, a 'Village Showcase/Fun Day'

We have some further aims for the next year:

- Replace the ageing audio/public address system in the hall with a modern one suitable for the 21st century.
- Install a large screen and projector capable of showing films and other projected material so that we can provide better entertainment in the village.
- Provide more entertainment generally in the hall – we would like musical events, shows, competitions, and general interest activities.

4. Bookings Secretary Report:

The year from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 has been busy and there have been many good reports from users about the quality of the hall. We have had bookings for parties (especially for children) from further afield this year possibly due to word-of-mouth recommendations. Some of our regular groups have terminated their classes due to falling numbers but we have gained others and still have a very busy hall.

The figures for the number of bookings is:

Belcher Room	214	(580 hrs)
Lounge	283	(742 hrs)
Main Hall	540	(1307 hrs)

This reflects the hall as being in use for an average of over 50 hours per week.

The HallWizard booking system works well and most people are happy to use it and it has made bookings simpler.

Hopefully we can continue to attract both regular and casual users to keep the hall successful.

5. Treasurers annual report:

This has been a financially successful year. Regular bookings income is up by 30% and contract booking (one-off bookings) up by 64%.

The NS & I bond of £6000 held in the name of the old village hall has now been cashed in by the Trustees and transferred to the new village hall account as a liquid funds. Overall, there was an operating surplus of £1356.

6. Future Plans for the Village Hall.

As outlined in the Chairperson's report, the completion of the decarbonisation project is a priority. The village hall committee would also like to organise more events sponsored by the committee for the benefit of the community and we will be investigating what sort of events we could put on.

7. Public questions.

None.

8. Election of committee members.

A vote was held of those present and the following members were re-elected to the committee:

Alan Thompson

Jean Manning

9. Any Other Business.

None.

The Meeting closed 9:50 AM.