

JAMES HARGREAVES COMMUNITY HALL TRUST

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2020, 2.30pm at the Chairperson's House.

The Meeting opened at 2.30pm

Those Present: Current committee members namely:

Gerry Poole (Chair), Julia Deadman-Spall (Secretary), Avril Sherring (Treasurer), Karen Berry, Pat Keogh and Kay Purvis.

Gerry opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending the Hall's AGM, especially on such a wet and windy afternoon.

1. Apologies for absence: Karen Southcott, Phyllis Diment and Gill Wingfield.

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019: Copies of the Minutes from 13th June 2019 had been distributed and were available at the meeting. The draft minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting by those present and are attached to this document.

A request for a proposer and seconder from the community for acceptance of the draft minutes was requested from the community by email. Proposed by Julia Eager, Seconded by Anthony R Morley.

3. Matters arising: None.

4. Chair's Report: Gerry gave her report as follows:

Chair's Report 30th September 2020:

Chairman's Report 2020

We had intended to have our AGM in June this year along with a social of Pimms and nibbles but due to the current situation, this could not go ahead. We decided that rather than abandon it altogether we would send out the information online for you to read at your leisure.

We had a positive start after the last AGM with the Hall being in continuous use with our regular clubs and groups and a number of events planned by the Committee for the near future. Obviously this all came to an abrupt halt on March 22nd when Lockdown started.

Maintenance

Since the last AGM we have continued to maintain the Hall. We reinstated the cleaning Rota with 5 volunteers who were going in once a fortnight. Phyllis Diment as ever was going in regularly to keep an eye on the hall and generally making sure everything was in order.

Throughout the year Karen Southcott and Julia D-S have at different times organised working parties to maintain the outside areas including the car park and graveyard. Karen's son Matthew has strimmed the Graveyard several times in order to keep the weeds and brambles at bay. Julia would like to get a group together who are willing to do this on a regular basis.

We have had several jobs done to maintain the Hall since last year. The wooden floor was stripped and polished last Summer. Karen Southcott arranged for the stained glass window to be repaired where the glass had broken. Kay Purvis arranged for a new fire retardant blind to be installed to replace the very tatty venetian blind in the kitchen. She also arranged for the replacement of the fridge and freezer that were in need of updating. Mark Southcott came in to change the taps in the toilet for self stopping ones to stop the problem of taps being left on and filling the cesspit. The step to the shed was highlighted in yellow as a safety precaution by Kay and Karen. The old Notice Board was falling apart and was replaced by two new ones, this was done by myself and Des. Julia purchased a projector for the Hall which can be used for our own events or hired out to others. Mark came in several times to sort out the radiators that were not working properly. The Parish Council also put up a new Notice Board on the outside wall of the Hall. Karen also had the faulty hand drier in the kitchen replaced. During Lockdown Karen organised for the hall to be painted inside and out so it is now looking very smart.

Hall Committee

After the last AGM we were pleased to welcome Karen Berry onto the committee. Julia Deadman Spall our secretary and Avril Sherring our Treasurer have now completed their third year on our committee and have both continued to do a fantastic job so many thanks to them both! Karen's role has continued to be key as she has updated our Fire and Risk Assessments and arranged for the PAT testing of all the electrical goods to be done. Other members of our committee work quietly in the background turning up to help whenever they can especially Pat Keogh and Gill Wingfield.

During Lockdown things continued to happen all be it very differently. Kay regularly checked the hall for insurance purposes. Julia continued to work through the lockdown period to keep everyone in the village informed and started up a mutual support group to help support those in need. This worked alongside the Parish Council Group organised by Clare Mahaddie but handed over (when it became evident that she herself was at risk) to Kay and Jimmy and June Mitra who offered practical assistance for those who needed help with shopping, taking to appointments and prescriptions collected etc. Julia put out an appeal for sewers to make scrubs bags and a further appeal for sheets and duvet covers that could be used to make them. Thanks to the many people who donated materials that could be used. The scrubs bags were then sent to Dorchester Hospital.

Sadly we have recently received two resignations from the committee. Firstly Martin Legg who after years of being on the committee and helping out with the practical side of things including reserving tickets and copying and delivering notices has decided that it is time to stand down. With the advent of lockdown his role in the village changed enormously and he found himself rather than slowing down, spending much of his time delivering newspapers, milk and groceries to the local community. We cannot thank him enough for all that he has done over the years, although we know he will still help out when he can. The other blow is Karen Southcott who has played a vital role on the committee for the past 10 years or more. Karen and her husband Mark have contributed significantly over the years. Karen with her skills, knowledge and willingness to get stuck in and get things done and Mark with his practical skills of fixing and maintenance. Goodness where we will be without them? Although Karen has assured us she will still help out where and when she can. A huge thank you to you both for all your hard work and help over the years!

The current committee will now consist of:

Gerry Poole (Chair), Julia Deadman Spall (Secretary), Avril Sherring (Treasurer), Karen Berry, Phyllis Diment, Jan Dixon, Pat Keogh, Kay Purvis and Gill Wingfield.

We are always looking for new Committee Members with fresh ideas, skills and interests. So if you are keen to get stuck in please come and join us. We are also always looking for people to help support the Hall by joining the cleaning rota, helping to maintain the garden, organising events or just getting involved in any events we put on.

Events

Events have been limited in the past year. Karen did organise a very successful Strawberry Tea last July. The Art Group held a wonderful Exhibition in our Hall at the end of the summer. Phyllis held her very successful Coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan. A group of us decorated the hall for Christmas and Kay and June organised a Christmas Vintage High Tea for the villagers to enjoy. The U3A orchestra held a successful Christmas music event with a sharing lunch afterwards. A Halloween Beetle Drive was planned and there were suggestions for events including sharing travel experiences and a Valentines Night event. Unfortunately these things didn't happen but hopefully they will in the future. During Lockdown many people got involved with sewing Scrubs Bags for the NHS and Carol Brown and Ruth Worsley set up an unmanned plant stall to raise money for the Dorchester NHS so many thanks to them.

Village Life

The Hall is now open and ready for use as soon as Groups feel ready and able. Since July some of the committee have been working hard to get the hall ready for use by putting in place Risk Assessments, Special Conditions for Hiring the hall and relevant signs. A group of us went in and cleared away all unnecessary items and set up a table with wipes and Hand Sanitizer. Karen and Mark are going to replace the current toilet seat for one with a lid in order to reduce airborne water droplets escaping. We will be asking Hirers to undertake some basic cleaning and restrict the numbers to 15 standing or seated or 8 when seated at tables. The use of the kitchen is currently restricted only because we have no dishwasher to ensure the cleanliness of the crockery and cutlery. Groups are welcome to bring their own to use in the hall.

When the Government Guidelines allow, our committee are committed to putting on a range of events and activities each year in the hope that they are well supported and as always others are welcome to come up with their own ideas for events to keep our Village Hall at the heart of our community.

Village Support and Council Endorsements

Under normal circumstances the Hall has a wide range of users which is great news as the added income helps boost the Hall funds and the Hall continues to be used for the good of the wider community.

The groups and events include:

The once monthly Sunday Afternoon Vintage Tea Room has continued to be organised by Kay and June who kept this very popular event going until Lockdown including a very successful Christmas High Tea, thanks to them for their commitment and hard work! They are keen to get this back and running as soon as the current Guidelines allow.

The monthly Luncheon Club was taken on by Jan Dixon who did a splendid job of keeping this ever popular event up and running.

Unfortunately the Autumn Beetle Drive was cancelled and the Spring Quiz was planned for the 27th March and was unable to go ahead.

We hope that as soon as restrictions ease we will be able to get our events up and running.

Other regular groups and events before Lockdown include

Knit and Natter which can also include other crafts Mondays 2.30-4.30

U3A Music group that meet every other week Wednesdays 10-12.30

Table Tennis every week, Wednesdays 4.30- 6.00

The Watercolour Group alternate Thursdays 10.00-12.30
The Morcombelake Art Group alternate Thursdays 10.00-12.30
Gardening Club, 1st Thursday each Month 2.00-4.00
Country Dancing, 2nd and 4th Fridays 2.00-4.30
Morcombelake Ladies Group also uses the hall occasionally for their events.

Alongside the various clubs and groups which regularly use the village hall it is also used for other meetings:

The Hardown Society
Parish Council Meetings
Voting for elections.

The Hall Committee would like to thank the Char Valley Parish Council for their continued support.

Of course, the hall is also a great facility to hire on a very reasonable basis for private functions and parties and has been well used for this also over the past year.

Future Plans

The Committee has debated the opportunities for the hall and its user groups. We are committed to ensure that the James Hargreaves Hall is well managed and that funds are used appropriately. Our 3 Year Plan sets out our plans as funds become available. We continually look for best value from our suppliers / contractors to ensure the Hall funds are spent wisely.

Publicity

Over the past year we have used the following forms of publicity:

A monthly Newsletter, either hand delivered or via email to homes in Morcombelake, Ryall, Beaminster and Chideock. Anyone can opt to receive the Newsletter by supplying their email to the secretary. A new look 'Welcome Pack' that is hand delivered by Ann Bartlett to anyone who has just moved into the area. This gives them information about the amenities and events and includes a Newsletter in the hope they will feel welcome and want to get involved life.

We place regular articles in the Parish Magazine along with details of our events. The Hall Newsletter is also used to announce future events and we display posters around the village to let villagers know what is going on.

Thanks

I would really like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to the people who have worked so hard to keep the Hall up and running and at the heart of our community despite the current situation. Namely: Julia Deadman Spall for keeping us all informed and up to date during Lockdown and continuing to do so. Avril Sherring for keeping our finances on track. Karen and Mark Southcott who do so much to keep the hall up and running. Phyllis Diment who until March was always keeping an eye on things and helping out at events. Jan and Martin Dixon who took over running the Luncheon Club. Kay and June Mitra with the help of Helen Dowling who kept the Vintage Tea going. Syd Green for providing the music for the Monthly Afternoon Tea. Also there are a few people who do a great deal to help behind the scenes especially Pat Keogh and Gill Wingfield who always seem to be there to help out. Other members of the Committee who are there at events to help set up and clear away afterwards and Martin Legg who does the photocopying and delivering of notices for us.

Gerry Poole
James Hargreaves Community Hall
Morcombelake September 2020

Recommendations

The committee recommends the acceptance of the Chair's report

5. Treasurer's Report:

Avril distributed copies of the accounts to all attendees.

Overall income was £4772.25: this included Grand Draw; £887.00: rent £2,770.10. Overall expenses were £5753.71 : the main expenditure was hall expenses at £3274.45. The total excess of expenditure over income for the year was £981.46. Added to the existing balance this amounted to the new balance of £6478.49. There was a £6.58 discrepancy which could not be traced but was in credit.

The Chair signed the accounts off.

6. The current committee will now consist of:

Gerry Poole (Chair), Julia Deadman Spall (Secretary), Avril Sherring (Treasurer), Karen Berry, Jan Dixon, Phyllis Diment, Pat Keogh, Kay Purvis and Gill Wingfield.

A request for a proposer and seconder from the community for re election of committee members en bloc was requested from the community by email. Proposed by Ronnie Creswell, Seconded by Viv Brill.

We are always looking for new Committee Members with fresh ideas, skills and interests. So if you are keen to get stuck in please come and join us. We are also always looking for people to help support the Hall by joining the cleaning rota, helping to maintain the garden, organising events or just getting involved in any events we put on.

7. Public Discussion:

The Chair closed the meeting by reflecting that it would have been nice to go on to Pimms and nibbles. We are hopeful that we will be able to resume our usual form by next summer. Although we could not invite villagers to attend the AGM this year, we do welcome questions, queries and reflections from the villagers.

The meeting closed at 4pm.