

Shalfleet Village Hall

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held in the Hall at 7.00pm on Friday May 3rd 2019

Hall Committee Present: Brian Mead (Chairman), Michael Beavis (Treasurer), Michele Smith (Bookings Secretary), Chloe Sutherland and Hilary Waitt.

Also Present: Nick Oulton (Churchwarden), Pam Rose (PCC), Diana Chesterton (PCC), Ros Freeman (Prospective Hall Secretary), David Freeman, Jon Rose, Maureen Beavis and Jane Jacobs.

Apologies: Clive Todd (Vicar), Shirley Stables, John & Jan Whitney.

Minutes: of the 2018 AGM were tabled and approved nem. con. (Pr. Hilary Sec. Maureen)

Chairman's Report:

I think it would be true to say that we have had another successful year - with bookings increasing further, our financial situation still sound despite some substantial expenditure and the whole appearance of hall and surroundings kept up to an encouraging standard.

We have attractive hall signs, a paving extension of the pathway to the Annexe and careful upkeep of the orchard and meadow.

All this is thanks to the hard workof Michele with her efficient control of bookings and care of the parties who hire the hall...of Michael controlling the finances carefully...and carrying out much of the maintenance and cleaning (the latter with the help of Maureen)...of Chloe with her care for the meadow and orchard...and by no means least, Hilary's skills in providing popular lunches at very attractive prices.

We are very grateful for their efforts - without which the hall would not function.

Booking Secretary's Report from Michele:

Bookings have continued to come in for the Hall, many people finding out about the venue by "word of mouth" and recommended by someone who has used it before. The most popular feedback I receive is about the lovely rural setting and how well equipped the Hall is. We now have several regular groups using the Hall weekly. These include yoga classes by Sally Chaucer and Sandy Capon, two music groups plus another band that uses the Hall on an "ad hoc" basis. There is also a meditation group called Serenity Sounds, our local craft group and the church choir too. Starting next week there will be a pilates group and another music group. There have been Wedding Parties held here, and again the setting is ideal as it is a very safe area with

plenty of outdoor and indoor space. For 2019, four weddings are booked with two enquiries pending and already enquiries for 2020. We must not forget the community lunch club that is held twice a month between September and May. This is well attended by our village & other residents. Other bookings include church meetings, parties of all kinds, business meetings, awareness days, our village fete, concerts and one man shows. The Hall is well used for a mixed bag of events.

Treasurer's Report on 2018 Accounts from Michael:

Our accounts show an increase in income of 7% in 2018. Income has increased from £9700 to £10400. This increase is mostly due to increased bookings from wedding receptions. The biggest contributors are still the weekly hirers and the fete income which amount to 78% of total income.

Expenditure in 2018 rose significantly from £5700 to £13100. This increase is solely due to one-off capital spending on:- the path to the Annexe, two storage trolleys for the tables, a fridge, a freezer, five gazebos for both the fete & hiring out and 120 dinner plates. The underlying remaining regular expenditure fell slightly from £5700 to £5600. As a consequence of our capital spending the bank balance fell from £10000 to £7300. Without the capital spending the bank balance would have increased by £4800.

In October we took the decision to increase some of the hire charges for 2019, as our hire rates have remained unchanged since 2015. The Commercial hirers, Wedding events and Birthdays have all been increased.

Last year I reported we were planning to increase the car park size to allow cars to park on both the churchyard side and the field side. This project has taken shape and has been referred to the Church PCC for their approval. We are hoping to complete this project in the autumn, once the design has been agreed and all permissions and approvals have been obtained.

Report on the Meadow and Orchard from Chloe:

This year we have done some more clearing of the overgrown 1930 vicarage vegetable garden, removing a tangle of brambles and black currant bushes. The small apple trees have been pruned and we have almost cleared round the big Bramley; this could then be pruned next winter, although it would be quite a lot of work. The top of the pear tree has been cut back to lower healthy branches. Part of the Victoria plum tree was broken off in a gale two winters ago. This was cut back but needs some more attention. A donated apple tree was planted.

The grass will be cut and raked up at midsummer as last year. There is a small patch of Lady's Smock, a plant of old grassland. The main part of the field will be cut by Ian Brett and his son will take the hay for his cattle; this means that he only charges us £50.

The new hedge had the sides cut in the winter of 2017 and this winter it will be topped. Ted Higgins has offered to do this as they organise the hedge planting. The

trees in the hedge are doing well and the Crab Apple had lots of fruit this year. The millennium Oak from the school project donated by Hilary Higgins is now much taller than me.

The hedge between the field and Mallard House will be cut on our side and topped this year. I have arranged for Jamie Cramp to do it this autumn.

The donated Walnut in memory of Jack Barton got off to a slow start, but is now beginning to grow. The wild Service tree has grown well but the two Hazels have not reappeared and could be replaced. These last three came with one of the grants. The area between the Hall and the Annexe could perhaps be cleared, establishing some traditional meadow plants, but this would mean clearing the ground of the coarse grass and digging out any rubbish and would be quite hard work. This would be best done at the end of August with seed collected locally in the summer being sown in the autumn.

If there is a good crop of fruit, this will be sold by Gordon in the Village Shop on behalf of the church to be divided between the Fabric Trust and the PCC.

Open Forum:

Hilary commented that the new path to the Annexe and the trolleys were both expensive but do their jobs very well and are really essential in helping our volunteers, some of who are now becoming elderly. Jon asked why the Bouncy Castle at the fete was not in its usual place between the Hall and Annexe. Michael explained that this was not possible on safety grounds as the Bouncy castle traverses the new path which is higher than the surrounding land. One of the benefits of the proposed seeding (with meadow seeds) of the ground between the Hall and Annexe is that the ground surrounding the path could be levelled enabling the Bouncy Castle to return to its previous location.

Election of Shalfleet Village Hall Management Committee:

Brian Mead and Chloe Sutherland have been nominated by the PCC as their representatives on the Hall Committee. Shirley Stables has been nominated by the Shalfleet Parish Council as their representative on the committee.

Michael Beavis, Michele Smith and Hilary Waitt were the remaining members and, in the absence of any other nominations from the Community, were elected nem. con. (Pr. Nick & Sec. Pam).

AOB: Nick expressed his thanks to the Hall team using the words “gold dust”, “amazing” and “incredible work” and is very proud that we have a lovely building and meadow.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.