

Colton Village Hall Management Committee

Annual General Meeting 2015

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 26th March 2015 at 7pm
in Colton Village Hall

1. Members Present

S Barnett M Havelock J Kinsman A Lloyd B Lloyd
R Lawrence J Low R Monbiot P Waring T Winter

Parishioners/Observers

D Bradbury R Williams D Bradbury G Johnson A Chappell B Brown J Porter
K Rider C Calkeld J Winter A Nunn P Whibley A Shortland D Shortland J
Carter P Havelock S Pedder

2. Apologies

J Redfern M Vernon I Jones P Jones P Macmillan J Macmillan
As the Chairman was unable to attend, the Vice Chair Tony Winter presided

3. Minutes of Last AGM

Read, amended and signed as correct record of the 2014 AGM

4. Matters Arising

BB raised the date of accounts presented. TW said we were following pattern established over a long period and in accordance with Charity Commission rules. BB said completed accounts needed by 31 May and suggested moving AGM to June. Current financial issues can be discussed now. AC said that moving the AGM had been suggested at 2013 AGM but had not been actioned.

5. Chair's Report

As per attached and read out by TW. TW commented that younger and more energetic people are required to take on the work involved in the running of the hall. BB initiated a discussion on the size of the management committee which he considered unwieldy. Responses included the need to have sufficient people to carry out the actual work. ASH commented that a number of sub committees had already been established to cope with different aspects of work required. DB pointed out that the number of village organisations had reduced over the years. SB suggested that the committee could consider this at its next meeting. BB also queried the number of entries which had been made in the "Conflict of Interests Register". None recorded in such.

6. Treasurer's Report

Copies of the Treasurer's report were made available. RL commented that income from hiring and fund raising events had increased so that we had achieved a surplus for the first time in 7 years. For the year 2014-15 it is likely we will drop back into a loss because we have uprated the original electrics to modern standards, fitted a burst damage prevention device, carried out essential repairs to the hall and much work to the fencing and grounds generally. Queries raised by BB were responded to by RL. BB asked at what point the committee would be in breach of trust because of the number of external hires. AL replied that all

income was invested for the village hall and community, so that there would be no breach of trust. Insufficient income was coming from Parish sources to maintain the hall. DS argued that reliance on income generated by village organisations would have meant that the hall would have closed years ago. JP queried why the hall was not available at favourable rates for the HS2 group. PH pointed out that some villagers were in favour of the HS2 project. KR said we should remember the word “parishioners”. JK referred to efforts made to initiate fresh activities for parishioners which had been met with no response. AL referred to 50% reduction for meetings of village organisations for their regular meetings. BB queried the rates charged for History Society exhibitions which he claimed had risen enormously. The reality was that in 2014 it would have cost £567.50 for the period BB quoted and the new rate would be £425 a saving of £142.50. RM reminded the meeting that fund raising events for the village hall incurred no hire costs, but ASH recalled that a dance recently arranged had been very poorly attended by parishioners as were the regular quizzes staged for parishioners. AC suggested that the lack of advertising was to blame and quoted the lack of posters to advertise this event. This was countered by the statement that the event had been circulated in the parish newsletter which was posted through every door in the parish. There was a general discussion on changes in the wider society and in Colton, with major implications for entertainment need of parishioners and TW called for positive input on this issue. KR referred to the need for affordable homes in the parish. SP asked why we had such a large village hall? AL referred to the parish-wide survey conducted in 2002, supported by the village organisations and the detailed plans which had followed. BB raised the issue of the Hoard booking and the cancellation due to a wedding. RL said it was never cancelled; JC had made a presentation stating that the Hoard exhibition would be for 14 days and would need to be manned from 10am to 4pm by 2 people; it was this or nothing. The committee could not commit to this level of manning but was keen to have the exhibition. After the meeting RL spoke to Chris (the Hoard organizer) to try to get a reduction in the opening hours. Chris said we could open for the hours we chose and close for days if we wished. Thus we could now commit to the manning required. RL gave this information to JC who said he had now made other arrangements. KR asked whether consideration could be given to favourable rates for parishioners’ weddings, birthday parties etc. It was agreed that this would be considered by the Management Committee.

7. Confirmation of Village Organisations’ Representatives and Elected Members

BB raised the question of trustees’ liability in the case of a claim made against the charity. RL confirmed that we have employee/volunteer cover, plus insurance for trustee liability to the value of £100k. AL stated that only if we acted unreasonably and rashly, provoking a claim that exceeded both our insurance cover and the total assets of the hall would trustees become personally liable. Never in the history of the hall had trustees acted unreasonably and rashly and, given the level of professional expertise within the committee were unlikely to do so. RL added that the Charity Commission provides major support in the event of a charity getting into difficulty of this kind. AC questioned whether Neighbourhood Watch should be considered a village organization as listed in the constitution.

Village Organisations Representatives

Produce Guild	R Monbiot
History Society	to be notified
Friendship Club	to be notified
Ramblers	vacant
Neighbourhood Watch	P Jones
PCC	J Low

School	J Redfern
Parish Council	P Waring plus one other to be notified
WI	P Macmillan
Old Peoples' Welfare	vacant
Parish Lands Trust	vacant

Elected Members

I Jones J Kinsman R Lawrence A Lloyd B Lloyd

Above proposed en bloc by TW, seconded by RM, approved.

AC queried the timing of the submission of co-opted members to the Charity Commission. He also questioned whether amendments made in 2014 had been notified to the Charity Commission. He was told they had been.

8. Any Other Business

DoB thanked the treasurer for the additional information on the accounts as requested, and also advised that our documentation for external use should indicate we are a registered charity as ours does. She also commended the document "The Essential Trustee". RL said the committee was aware of the document and had used it when there were issues. JC sought an assurance that the village hall would not give away assets. He referred specifically to the spoil heap at the far end of the playing field. RL pointed out that it was largely clay subsoil. It was agreed that the Management Committee would note JC's comments. AN referred to help from AC and BB.

9. Next AGM to be held on Thursday 31 March 2016

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.