

COLTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

AGM 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023

Trustees Present: John Macmillan (Chairman) (JM): Guy Reynolds (Treasurer) (GR): Lynne Richardson (Secretary) (LR): Fiona O'Brien (Booking Officer) (FO'B): Richard Monbiot (RM); Nigel Parry (NP).

Parishioners present: Polly Macmillan, Rachel Bayliss, Pete Knowles

1. The minutes of the 2022 AGM which had been posted on the village hall's website well in advance of the meeting, were accepted as a true record.
2. Trustees' report of activities. JM said that the trustees were required under the charity's governing instrument to both run and provide a village hall which meant keeping the hall in a good state of repair. He reported that in the last 2 financial years the trustees had had to spend a total of £41,400 on essential repairs and maintenance. The car park, which had been deteriorating for some time, had been relayed. The car park lights and the boiler had both failed and had had to be replaced. New waterless urinals had been installed in the gents toilet. Despite this expenditure, there was still a balance of £12,500 in the current account and £4,00.00 in the contingency reserve. JM said that he wished to pay tribute to two people in particular. The first was his predecessor as chairman, RM, whose businesslike leadership had ensured that we had been able to meet these demands, for which no grants were available, out of our own resources. The main task of the trustees over the next few years was to rebuild the financial reserves to their former level so that the next time there were major repairs to undertake, we could do the same again to secure the long-term future of the hall. The second was Pete Knowles who spends many hours maintaining the hall and playground to the highest standards, all as a volunteer, thus saving the hall a considerable amount of money.
3. Annual report and accounts. These had also been posted on the village hall website. GR took the meeting through the accounts. He explained that, with reluctance, room hire charges had been increased both because of higher energy costs and the need to rebuild capital reserves. There had been no adverse comment from existing and potential hirers. Funds are now going in the right direction to build the reserves again with a predicted surplus of around £1500 in the current financial year.
4. Parishioners feedback and open forum. Among the points raised and discussed were the need to change the security code on the Bellamour Room key box more frequently which was agreed: whether the trustees should charge hirers for minor damage and exceptional cleaning costs, which was rejected as impractical, the former requirement to provide a security deposit (which had never been forfeited in practice) had been abandoned some years ago: and whether parents could park on the car park when taking children to or collecting them from, school which was agreed. The discussion about parking extended to the reopening of Pedley's Croft for parking for village events which had been stopped some years ago. On behalf of the PCC, Rachel Bayliss advised it can be used for Village events by arrangement with the PCC but must be marshalled.

5. Election of members for 2023/24. Fiona O'Brien and Guy Reynolds were duly elected.
6. Announcement of representative members for 2023/24. John Macmillan - Colton local Nature Reserve: Richard Monbiot - Garden Guild: Nigel Parry - Parish Council: Lynne Richardson - Colton WI.
7. At the conclusion of the meeting RM thanked JM for running such a tight ship for the last couple of years. The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m. The parishioner present were invited to remain and observe the trustees committee meeting which followed.