

Bradfield Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Monday May 25th 2017 at 7.45 pm

Present: Christine Evans, Jane Gaut, Eva Roggenstein, Jim Balsdon, Sarah Westcar, Gordon Patterson and 44 members of the public

1. Welcome by the Chair

Christine Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced the other Trustees and briefly described the origins and purpose of the Village Hall Trust.

2. Apologies for Absence

Sam Grey, Lesley McEwen, Liz Butcher, Jeremy and Jenny Caddy, Pauline Stares

3. Minutes of last year's AGM – 25th April 2016

Last year's minutes were agreed upon by those present who attended that meeting and were signed by the Chair.

4. Chair's Annual Report – see attached document

5. Treasurer's Financial Report – see attached document

Eva Roggenstein explained that she had taken over paying the bills etc. when Sam Grey was taken ill. The Financial Report had already been completed by Sam and audited by David Marett.

She circulated a copy of the report, which was also displayed on the projector, along with a diagram showing the proportions of those hiring the hall and invited any questions.

- A question was raised about the drop in income received from the Greenham Common Trust. Christine explained that money raised has been match-funded by the trust up to £15,000. The next phase will be after planning permission has been granted.
- A second question asked whether The Green Clock Company was limited by shares or by guarantee. Eva explained that the Trustees as a body were shareholders and read out a statement to explain why the Company was set up and its function in managing the project. Setting up the Company enables the Trustees to claim back the VAT.

6. Appointment of an Independent Financial Examiner

Eva proposed **David Marett** as the **Independent Examiner**, seconded by Jim Balsdon. This motion was passed unanimously.

A short "Commercial Break" followed:-

- Christine reminded everyone about the monthly Bradfield markets held in the Village Hall. The next market will be the 10th June.
- On the 24th June the Watermill Theatre Company are putting on a production of "Nesting", a play about hoarding, based on a Bradfield resident. Tickets are £15.

7. Election of the Management Committee

Gordon Patterson agreed to chair this section of the meeting and introduced Jane Gaut.

Jane explained that the Village Hall Trust was set up in 1941 before the Village Hall existed and expected all the voluntary groups within the parish to elect a representative to be a trustee on the Management Committee. However nowadays, most groups either do not wish to put forward a representative or cannot find a volunteer to take on the task. Thus for some years, the Trust has relied on those who have volunteered to be Trustees, most of whom had previous connections in some way with the Hall and some of whom were originally representatives of a group. She invited anyone interested in becoming a Trustee to come forward.

There are few guidelines in the Trust Deed as to how people can be nominated, elected, etc and for many years, the Trust has relied on common sense, whilst being aware of the requirements of the latest Charity legislation. This has served the Trust well thus far, but it is recognised that it is time for the Deed to be brought up to date. It is the intention of the current Trustees to start the process of updating the Trust Deed in line with modern practice and legislation as soon as possible.

Gordon read out the motion:

“The existing trustees be re-elected en-bloc and must initiate the process of updating the trust deed (or constitution) in line with modern practice”.

Those eligible to vote on this would be –

- Those who use the hall
- Those who live in Bradfield
- Those who live in the near vicinity – Chapel Row, Stanford Dingley, Beenham etc.

He explained that this was the common sense approach and it would be left to “your conscience if you are eligible to vote”.

Bernard Biggs proposed the motion and David Swan seconded it. Gordon asked those eligible to vote.

33 voted for the motion 0 against with 12 abstentions – The Trustees and Gordon Patterson chose not to vote.

Gordon reiterated Jane Gaut’s words inviting anyone wanting to join the Committee or to help with revising and updating the Trust deed to come and speak to the Trustees.

8. AOB

Peter Walker thanked everyone who sponsored him for his canoeing expedition.

There was a question about the cost of the building. Christine replied that it was difficult to put a final figure on the cost, but assured the meeting that the Trustees are looking at various options to enable the project to be completed in the most cost effective way.

There was a query about grants. Many grants cannot be applied for until planning has been granted, so as soon as the building has been passed, grant applications can begin in earnest. Christine is attending a Grant Funding meeting on Wednesday.

Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

<u>Date of next AGM meeting: April 2018</u>
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