

**Minutes of Village Hall Annual General Meeting
held on Zoom (due to COVID lockdown)
Saturday, 9th January, 2021 at 10.30 a.m.**

Present: Jo & David Hartgill, Anne & Andy Branson , Polly Patrick, Sally Udall, Anne & James Nalty, Su & Jon Swallow, Veronica & Andy Balchin, Diana Castle, Dawn May, Gareth & Mel Beeson

Jo welcomed everyone and confirmed that special dispensation had been given for AGM's to be held online because of COVID restrictions.

1. **Apologies** Graham Castle
2. **Minutes AGM 2020** Previously circulated, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
3. **Reports. Chairman** (Full report attached to file copy of minutes) We have seen some changes on the committee this year, with Dawn handing over the Treasurer's job to Polly. Dawn will be sadly missed after all the years of service she has given on the committee. We were pleased to welcome new member Roz. Jo reported that this had been a difficult year, with the Hall closed for much of it because of COVID lockdowns. But it had given us an opportunity to look at our finances, thanks to Andy Balchin for his very thorough review of our financial situation and how we should plan for the long term future of our Hall. We discussed the possibility of having our own website to promote the Hall as a venue to as many local people as possible. Having been turned down for a grant, we are grateful for the offer of space on the Stours Parish Council website. A lot of electrical work has been carried out to get us fully compliant and various odd jobs done during lockdown – eg. second coat of paint on the shed, notice board and front steps rejuvenated. Committee members have also worked hard on our new hiring agreement, safeguarding and equal opportunity policy as well setting up the Hall to meet stringent COVID requirements when allowed to open. We were helped in all this by the £10,000 government grant made available to all community organisations that had to close due to the pandemic. We also applied for and received a grant from the Dorset Community Impact Fund enabling us to cover, heat and light the rear patio and buy some outdoor furniture. Particular thanks to Eric Udall for building the cover and to all the committee members who have worked on these projects during the year. The Hall was able to open for a few weeks with Polly resuming pilates classes and we look forward to being able to get back to normal as soon as possible.

Treasurer (Full report attached to file copy of minutes) Polly thanked Dawn for making the handover so smooth. It had been a difficult year with very little income from usual sources, but grants and donations had been very welcome, as had all the volunteer help and cost-only work that helps keep our finances on a secure footing. However, Polly pointed out that without the £10,000 grant we would have only a few hundred pounds in our current account and we need to plan ahead to ensure long term financial stability.

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| Current Ac. Balance 31.12.19 | £14,757.65 |
| Nat'l.Savings | £1,698.06 |
| Micro Museum Committee Funds (held by Village Hall) | £90.00 |

4. **Election of Committee Members** Jo to continue as Chair – proposed Anne B. seconded Su; Polly to continue as Treasurer – proposed Jo, seconded Diana. Diana stood down as Secretary and was presented with a beautiful bunch of flowers. As no one is able to replace her at the moment, it was agreed that committee members would take it in turn to take the minutes of meetings. Su agreed to her name being used if a document requires Secretary details. All committee members happy to continue.

5. **Programme for 2021** Obviously difficult to plan at the moment as the present lockdown could be extended beyond February. Hoping to have Gardens Open end-May or early June, but people felt this may well be too early and it might be a good idea to have an alternative date for mid-Summer or even Autumn. It could be arranged at the last minute with teas served outdoor rather than in the Hall to comply with any COVID restrictions still operating. Jo stressed that we want to use the Hall as a community hub offering a variety of activities rather than just individual events. Ideas discussed –
- Community swap shop for produce, plants, etc. with an honesty box
 - Art & crafts exhibition, possibly for a week
 - With more people working from home, Gareth confirmed that there is a need for working spaces for individuals, small meetings, etc. We would need to think about providing good internet access.
 - Computer classes – James already goes into Gillingham Library to help people with computer problems and thought it would work well in the Hall
 - Install a weather station at the Hall to give villagers local information
 - Promote the church and Hall as a package deal for weddings. In the present climate, small weddings have become essential and may lead to couples choosing smaller, more sustainable weddings. This would also support local business such as florists, photographers, caterers, etc.
6. **Any Other Business** It had previously been suggested that some of Marjorie's bequest could be used to plant some trees on the rec. and/or behind the village hall, with a plaque to remember her by. Agreed it was a lovely idea and we would discuss it further.
7. **Date of Next AGM** Saturday 8th January 2022, 10.30 a.m.

Next Committee Meeting Thursday 21st January, 4.00 on Zoom

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