

Village Hall Association - Minutes
Annual General Meeting – 19th March 2024

19th March 2024 7pm

Present:

Chair: Guy Elder

Treasurer: Olwyn Calder - Mcshane

Secretary: Dee Robinson

Member: Neil Robinson

Attendees: Brian Hillesdon
Mark Rowthorn
Helen West
Roger Canning
Elsbeth & John Brint
Linda Naismith
Susie Robertson
Lydia and Dave Moodie

Apologies: Sandra & Ian Davidson
Jeannie Rowland & Jim Urquhart
Mike Loochin
Isobel Gray

Neil thanked everyone for coming.

Accounts

Olwyn gave the accounts report and explained we are in a better position than last year after funding and fund-raising events.

Olwyn was concerned we needed the accounts to be signed off and this needs to be a registered accountant. This has been looked into and we know this does not have to be a qualified accountant.

Guy offered to sign these off as he has been involved with the running of the hall and understands the expenditure.

Guy explained we are better off than some of the other halls which are in financial difficulty.

Neil explained we have had a lot of free electricity then explained the latest electric bill and readings and paper passed round to everyone attending, with the figures on.

Guy apologised for being late and explained he is stepping down as chairman, he thanked previous members for assisting.

Neil is stepping down as a group member but will carry on with the projects he has already started.

Outstanding projects are:

The kitchen area will need £5k to make improvements including buying industrial size ovens so we can apply for food hygiene certificates which opens more doors for people wishing to hire the hall for functions such as weddings and catering for events such as the Argyll Rally. We have also looked at connecting to the internet.

We have requested for £15k from the sale of Highgate Hall to install updated heating now the hall has been insulated and the electric wiring has been replaced.

The bicycle rack needs to be constructed and fitted.

Previous Projects

Guy explained the previous projects which have been completed including all damp and ingress has been dealt with, new guttering, roofing and the hall decorated.

Although there are issues with storage namely in the container, but we have not had a chance to start to sort this out. A date will be organised where the village will have the opportunity to come and assist with emptying and tidying the container and anything which has not been used for a while will be given as first refusal to the village before either being disposed of or given to a charity shop.

Funding is also available for the hall, although, we have not had time to look into this and apply for any.

Before Guy and Neil stepped down, the group decided to increase the rental of the hall has not been updated (as far as we know) for the last 10 years so to cover electric usage and insurance this has been increased from £7 per hour to £10 per hour and will begin on the 1st April 2024. Neil advised that if any groups are struggling, with the price increase, to go and speak to him and he will assist with looking at funding rather than any groups disbanding.

AMENDMENT

The price increase for groups has been reviewed and will not be £10 per hour as we have been informed this is too high and due to some groups having less members on some days, this is not practical.

The new Hall Management Group secretary will mention any changes when a new update is sent. Guy mentioned the tree stumps in the corner of the car park will be moved in due course.

The brush is to be cleared as he is trying to avoid run off when there is heavy rain from forming a deep puddle near his property which keeps happening and could potentially cut off residents from that part of the village from leaving to get into town etc.

We requested volunteers to come onto the group to prevent all groups being disbanded and the hall closing and being sold.

Mark Rowthorn volunteered to be Chairman and Brian Hillesdon volunteered to be secretary.

After Dee explained that rather than putting all responsibility for setting up functions on one or two people, if there were 6 volunteers to clean the hall, this would mean the hall would be cleaned by each person once every 6 weeks or once every 3 weeks if they were to work in pairs. There would also be one person to go to the local paper to advertise the larger functions, someone to go to the printers to order posters and flyers and everyone to distribute these to the town and outside areas rather than only having one or two people to do all of it.

As a result, Elsbeth and Helen have also kindly volunteered to come on to the group.

A meeting of the new Management Group will be confirmed to discuss further projects and events going forward and assist in a smooth transition of information for the new chairman and secretary. Linda Naismith requested we ask a member from each group to be present at meetings to keep everyone informed of news and changes. This was agreed upon and will be actioned on future meetings.

Kind Regards,

Dee.