

SAMPFORD BRETT VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 28th November 2018 in the Village Hall

Minutes

The meeting was opened at 19:30 by the chair Andy Busby. A total of 31 residents attended.

- (1) **Apologies.** Martine Cadby, Vere Kennett, Sue Biggs, Jane Busby.
- (2) **Minutes of the last meeting** (1st November 2017) were read and proposed by Hilary Weldon and Seconded by Nick Broderick as a true record of that meeting. APPROVED and signed by Andy Busby.
- (3) **Matters Arising** - None
- (4) **Chair's report**

Andy Busby reported on a busy year which included:

- Purchase of replacement chairs for the hall
- Three Acorn Surveys (Technical and two Community)
- Use of the Premises License by Sampford Brett Activities Group (SBAG) for fund-raising which has been very successful
- General tidying up of the hall and garage
- Purchase and installation of a quality sound system
- Current exploration of hall acoustics and possible solutions
- Receipt of £2000 from the estate of Beryl Willes, for which the whole community is grateful. Andy took the opportunity to remind attendees of the significance of bequests, however small
- The possibility of a new Hall at some point in the future, which is a significant undertaking with far-reaching ramifications

Finally, Andy Busby reported that VHMC members David Drabble, Sheila Draper, Ross McKee and Leslie Proctor would be standing down after this AGM. He thanked them for all their hard work and commitment over many years of service, and the entire meeting reflected those sentiments with a round of applause. As a show of appreciation, each was awarded a token of the community's appreciation.

- (5) **Treasurer's Report**

David Drabble presented the Annual Report and Accounts and Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 30th September 2018; which had been previously published on the Village website [here](#). He reminded the meeting that we are not required to submit these papers to the Charities Commission due to income thresholds.

He drew attention to these points:

- There is little variance from year to year

- Hire of the Hall constitutes a major income stream, and although it has increased in cash terms, it covers a large fluctuation of individual hires (eg losses from Tai Chi, Election hire and Friday Club but a full year's let at commercial rates to Pilates)
- General expenses were up due in part to the purchase of the first year's Premises License, although the annual recurring costs were being met by SBAG
- The 0 figures for Performing Rights and Community Council for Somerset are due to administrative errors and will be addressed in this year's account
- The profile of our account holdings was described in light of the recent creation of new bank accounts

Jan Swan highlighted an error on page 6 of the report, where "Letting income due, received since 30/9/16" should read "Letting income due, received since 30/9/18".

Passing of the Accounts was proposed by Charles Cadby and seconded by Jan Swan.

(6) **Lettings Report**

Charles Cadby reported on an "interesting year":

- Bookings had dropped with the loss of significant hirers
- In 2017 (assuming an annual total of c1000 hiring slots - am, afternoon, evening), we had a 40% occupancy rate; in 2018, this has fallen to 30%
- The Table Tennis club no longer meets, but we still have a set of good hirers - Soup Club, Stitches, Pilates, Cantabile, Morris Men, Gardening Club
- Fridays are now free, with little weekend use (Benefice Praise once per month)
- A new class is starting - Rhythmic Gymnastics
- The hall is booked as a ballot station for an election in May 2019. A running group is booked for an evening in September 2019
- Charles reminded the village that the local community enjoyed a preferential rate for hire, and challenged them to think of new events or activities that might take place

Hilary Weldon suggested that the general state of the hall and the facilities it offered was a significant factor in low usage, but Charles refuted this from his experience with many hirers.

Peter King reminded the meeting of the facilities at the new Williton Pavilion and how this might impact on a certain type of hire.

Jan Swan asked if the occupancy figures included or excluded the use of the hall for SBAG events, and Charles confirmed that they are included.

Nick Brodrick suggested film evenings might be popular; Charles explained that in a hall with a seating capacity of 65, there would be a low financial return. However, this is not discounted as a valuable social event.

Dave Smith reminded the meeting that we could experiment with many events, as not all have to be large revenue generators in line with the Hall's role as a social hub.

(7) **Charitable Incorporated Organisation Status - an overview**

Andy Busby gave an overview of these structures, the main points of which are published on the Village website **here**.

In terms of timescale, Andy suggested the VHMC would be tackling this as a priority and we anticipated a resolution by Q3 2019?

(8) **Acorn Project - reporting the decision by the VHMC meeting on 13th November**

Dave Smith presented the report of the VHMC after its discussion of the Acorn Group Feasibility Report; both of which had been previously published on the Village website **here**. He reiterated the major concern of the VHMC which is that we do not enter into this lightly, and ensure we proceed commensurate with the people resources we are able to recruit. We will approach the Community Council for Somerset in early 2019 and commence a community volunteer recruitment exercise, although there are other tasks facing the new Committee which have their own resource implications.

Nonetheless, there is a firm commitment to the project to take interim measures to enhance aspects of the hall which are deemed to be unsatisfactory, and to pursue the replacement of the hall in the longer term.

(9) **Election of the Committee**

As representatives of specific village groups, the following members were confirmed:

Dave Smith - SBAG
Charles Cadby - Archives Group
Richard Currie - Gardening Club
Liz Blazey - Parochial Church Council

The following members were proposed, seconded and elected:

Andy Busby (proposed Chris Martin, seconded Jenny Elston)
Vicky Armstrong (proposed Andy Busby, seconded Richard Currie)
Vere Kennett (proposed Dave Smith, seconded Hilary Weldon)
Brenda Payne (proposed Colin Draper, seconded Vicky Armstrong)

(10) **Any other business**

Richard Currie proposed a vote of thanks for the Hall decorations put up by Brenda Payne, Hilary Weldon and her family. Everyone felt they looked great and echoed Richard's words.

There has been a request from a village family that they might use one of the two table-tennis tables over the Christmas period, for a donation. This was met with general approval; the meeting agreed that we could more or less let them have the older of the two for a small donation, retaining the better one for informal use at Pop Up Pubs, or in case the Table Tennis Club is reformed.

Andy Busby closed the meeting after expressing his thanks to all the Committee for their efforts over the last year.