



Minutes of AGM 30th Sept 2020

Apologies for absence: Derek Massey, Iain Hebenton

Minutes for the last AGM March 2019 were proposed and seconded no further AOB actions arising.

Chairman's Report

Report from AGM period March 2019 to Sept 2020: actually, covers period Sept 18 to Sept 2020.

This year's report I will try to highlight notable events, changes and successes during this new period reflecting major changes and challenges we have faced and are facing. The year started off well enough with Summer BBQ's (salad provided by the Masseys) and Pete Price with Roger Kenyon organised live music nights all well attended.

Events:-

- 1st June St John's Church "Tea" fund raiser held
- 15th June 2019 Bawming took place albeit restricted obviously cancelled this year.
- Iain Hebenton stood down as Chair after many Years serving on the committee and we all thank him for his time and continued support as "Head Gardener".
- Being Vice Chair I took on the role as Interim chairman which has become full time.
- 7th Sept Defibrillator successfully installed together with training sessions on its use, many thanks to the local sponsors.... Many thanks to Sue for driving this community project. £2500
- Bloor homes monthly rental agreement for use of our carpark which comes to an end in October 2020 generating much needed funding, £300/month thanks to Dan.

September brought about an in depth review of our committee leading to the Formation of new FOCUS teams, designed to help highlight and manage the running of the Hall. We realised there are issues that required special skills so in order to deal with these we had to reach out and find the people we discovered that have the skills either within the committee or membership:



- **Property Management Team (PMT)** Property Management Team (PMT) to review, prioritize and cost building maintenance issues, Roofing which required immediate repairs and gully cleaning, drainage both surface and more especially Septic tank issues, double glazing where units were damaged or lost seal, doors and general upkeep and day to day running ... driven by Andy Cross
- **communications** team to handle Hall bookings, Memberships, Website, Secretary and Treasurers functions and lastly
- **Grants & Fund** raising, we recognised that the committee needs to be more focussed on fund raising events and finding Grants to cover maintenance issues.

Notable Achievements & ongoing issues:

- Replacement of internal & external doors ... John Rimmer
- Heated air dryers successfully installed in all the toilets to replace paper which has helped reduce drainage issues, replaced, or refurbished toilet fans and adjusted the hot water controls to regulate the temperature in the gents.
- Successful fund raising events, Novembers Xmas fayre over £1000, early December Xmas tree lighting £650, the annual Dogs party £350 and Xmas Quiz night £160 and in March race night £340....all helping to contribute to the VH funds, Our thanks to Amanda, Michelle, Jayne and all for their support .
- In January, further Hall Refurbishment by way of new carpets in the lounge, entrance hall and pool room together with new chairs and lighting... our thanks to Derek Massey for arranging.
- New Year's Eve party
- Establishment of "Gift Aid" status for our Charity, Members generous donations have all helped add to the funding.... Thank Dan/ Ian Jones, Whist we mention Ian who stood down in April we would again like to thank him for his time as Treasurer and generous donation following his standing down and continued support to Rod.
- March brought about the new ONLINE Membership feature, from our Membership page on the Appleton Thorn Village Hall website there is now Membership options together with a secured online payment system scheme which has proved to be a financial life saver.

COVID 19

As we were just coming to terms with the challengers and looking forward to organising funding events for the rest of 2020, everything came to a complete STOP on the 20th March Midnight Bar closed and Monday 23rd March "LOCK DOWN" full closure.



it is a great tribute to our loyal Membership who have been prepared to renew their memberships or become new members in order to support the Hall even though we were closed.

Overnight ALL revenues for the Hall and its User Groups ceased

This brought about a series of new challenges, **where to begin?????** Well firstly we had to look at our costs and how we could manage the continued running of the Hall.

We realised that this was also an opportunity to carry out some essential maintenance, The Masseys stood up to the plate, they dealt with a series of the tasks at hand, initially by recoating the Hall floor then embarking on the daunting task of a painting program covering ALL the doors, Hall Ceiling, walls & woodwork giving us what you can see today all in all taking up many weeks of their time!!!

Our sincere thanks & gratitude go to Derek, Alison, Chris & Justin

The addition of a new SMART TV to give us the ability to help promote events and our Website.

Further progress with Septic tank issues have been made albeit very slow with the proposal of a new drainage pit being dug in the field to help alleviate these issues with Enviocare committing this work to start on 19th Oct at NO COST to us. Thankyou Irene Bain for all your persistence!! The PMT will look to the future by designing new drainage sewer systems leading to the connection to the "main sewer" in Stretton Road and thus eliminating this problem!! Payment for this project will hopefully be via Funding Grants.

We eventually after many attempts received a rate rebate and grant from the local Borough council which gave us a breathing space and enabled us to carry out a few more maintenance tasks namely finishing off some paint work and the replacement of 5 double glazed window units in the front and rear of the main Hall.

With the limited reopening of the Hall in June this brought about NEW Risk Assessments and Health & Safety rules, lots of ADMIN !!!, In January we joined the CCA which is an organisation based in Chester which helps and advises Village Halls and Community Centres in Cheshire with guidance on how to obtain Grants and funding, however as it turned out the ever changing COVID 91 restrictions & Laws their advice has been invaluable.



New DEEP cleaning and personal hand sanitising together with complicated procedures have been introduced which has aided the return of the pre-school 5 days a week, Dance school and limited running of the BAR. a redesign of the Beer garden to incorporate a marquee courtesy of Bawming with new garden lighting has added a much appreciated benefit to the Hall allowing us to increase legally our capacity. The introduction of a new Test & Trace desk registration system has been designed in order to keep ALL our Members safe and has aided the growth of new memberships, A huge amount of work by Sue and Dave Bennett on its conception, design and implementation and a massive thankyou to all the current volunteers running the system, without their support we could not have opened the Bar.

Derek, Alison Chris and his staff have also played a massive part in making the BAR work and remain safe for the Members, thank you.

To keep up with the ever changing laws, restrictions being imposed to deal with this Virus it would not have been possible without the support & co-operation from a whole group of people including our loyal membership. I would like to give a special thanks to the committee, the Masseys and all involved in the running and supporting of the community Hall.

Although these are difficult times, we must try to stay positive and look forward to the return of “normality”

Treasurers report

Ian & Rod gave a brief joint presentation to the meeting explaining the setup of the Charity Banking, a new setup and change by adding a new cash flow account and a reserve account giving us the flexibility of being able to budget for the month on month cash flow and a back up fund in case of emergencies.

The re-election of the main committee positions (Trustees) was then confirmed by the Secretary Dan Heaphy with the welcome introduction of a new Vice Chairman in Caz Wills.

Chairman: Geoff Plass

Vice Chair: Caz Wills

Secretary: Dan Heaphy

Treasurer: Rod Peterken



APPLETON THORN
VILLAGE HALL

Appleton Thorn Village Hall Committee
30th September 2020
Venue: Village Hall
Start 20.00pm

Continued invaluable support from Irene Bain (Booking) & Sue Plass (Memberships)

Meeting CLOSED at 9pm