

AGM Minutes March 13th 2024

Attendees: - Geoff Plass, Dan Heaphy, Irene Bain, Sue Plass, Rod Peterken, Geoge Bedford, Edna & Peter Taylor, Andy Cross, Alison Massey, Sue Marten, David Holt, Duncan Edwards, Michelle Grant

1. Apologies for Absence

Judith Brown, Linda Kennedy, Jason Tighe, Dewi Williams, Sue White, Liz & Kevin McAloon, Chris Massey, Amanda Yarwood, Iain Hebenton, Andy & Jan Bacon

2. Approval of the minutes of previous AGM 1st March 2023

Proposed; - Irene Bain Seconded: - Rod Peterken

3. Chairmans report

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees Irene Bain, Dan Heaphy, Rod Peterken, George Bedford Sue Plass, Jason Tighe, Dewi Williams and all the committee members new and old who have given up their time and supported the ATVH this past Year. A very special thank you to Rod Peterkin who will be standing down although staying as a committee member, for all his dedication and hard work throughout his time as Treasurer and welcome George Bedford as his successor.

General running of the Hall: - There was a short period during the summer period where refurbishment work was being carried out, where we did of course have to close the Hall down for any bookings. This was a necessary move but did, however, have a significant financial impact, as we were closed for 3 months. I'm very pleased to announce that we are now operating back at Full Speed and special thanks to Irene.

Membership: - this is now at its highest number ever at just over 700 with a mix of Life, family, single, over 65 and student levels to choose from. Well, done Sue Plass for her work as Membership secretary, as this revenue is of vital importance to support investment projects for the Hall

BAR: A New bottle chiller has been installed.

Bawming Day took place for the first time this Year completely at the school fields (excluding COVID19) and the VH was not involved. The Trustee's and committee members wish the school all the very best for future Bawming Day events and will always stand ready to support should it be required.

Utility Charges: -

Continue to cause problems to the running costs for the Hall, currently Users of the Hall are paying a small subsidy to help counter some of this cost and will continue until the prices for Gas & Electric return to more manageable rates. Our thanks go to these Users for their support during this period.

Pre-School:-

The preschool has been a major success and has expanded throughout the Year to now include a Nusery, there are plans a foot to change some of the exterior of the grounds to help accommodate them by new fencing and a safer play area. This work has now been completed, a new area for the preschool has been created and the old beer garden fencing has been replaced due to age and rotting, we intend to stain the woodwork in the Spring, replaced old trellis work and rehung the gate at the front of the VH.

Kings Coronation: This took place on the Weekend of 6th May and was extremely well attended, a great day out and fun for all using the Hall grounds with a fabulous BBQ.

Xmas Fayre and tree lighting events:

Both events were very well attended and most enjoyable, it was great to see just how many locals turned out as the

weather was not at its kindest. We raised circa more than £1000 towards our reserve's funds for future inward investments.

Two new ways to invest in the VH:

Donations can now be made through the website with the option to give Gift Aid if you are a Taxpayer which adds 25% to the donation. We have raised over £2000 so far this Year.

Warrington Community Lottery Fund:

Buy tickets through our website and help support the VH to date we are getting between £80 and £100/month.

Appleton Thorn Village Hall (ATVH) Refurbishment Project

Objectives:

Remove existing 150-year-old septic tank system and the refurbishment of old toilets and rear entrance Hall, connect to the combined main drainage sewer system via new pipework, manholes and trenches.

Timescales & Costs:

Six months starting April 2023, all work must ensure the continued use of the Hall by Users during this period. This was carried out in three stages using local construction Company's with the total costs being in the region of £70k.

Solution:

We applied for and subsequently were successful in winning a Grant of £50,000 from Valencia Community funds to carry out this project. This was a huge bonus to us as the Grant fund covered 90% of the project's total cost. The balance of funding was then raised from a further grant from the Platinum Jubilee Fund and local fund-raising events.

The refurbishing of the toilets has made significant improvements and ensures all visitors now have a pleasant, safe, and comfortable experience with high levels of hygiene and Health standards.

The project work was signed off by Mr. Nick Berry from Valencia on the 30th November 2023 as a job well done!!!!

Our special thanks must go to Jason Tighe for his Project Management skills as well as using some of his contractors to do the work, Andy Cross who designed, planned and implemented all the various stages this project as well as liaised with all the relevant authorities to obtain the necessary licenses which took many months of work before a spade could be put in the ground!!

This work was completed by October when we replaced the old 9 windowpanes in the rear hallway and a large pane at the front.

Futures:

continuation of our plan for inward investments

1. The roof continues to be of concern
2. Further work to be carried out on surface drains.
3. Redevelopment of our existing Kitchen
4. Expansion of our existing Wi-Fi coverage within the Hall

Finally thank you all once again for your support and we look forward to the next Year.

4 Treasurers Report

We have the audited Accounts, which now go on the notice board. Our cash book figures showed income at £94203 and expenditure of £90133 giving Just over £4k increase for the year. Confirmed the Toilet Refurb total cost was about £70000 with grants providing £58000 with the remaining

£12000 coming out of ATVH funds. The cost of the refurbishment is outlined in a spreadsheet put together with the accounts on the noticeboard in the Hall. The reserve Policy is kept with the file in accounts and needs to be reviewed annually.

5 The Election of Officers

Rod Peterken has now resigned, and George Bedford is replacing him proposed by Andy Cross and Seconded by Alison Massey.

The Honorary officers were re-elected unopposed. Geoff Plass as Chair, Dewi Williams as Vice Chair and Dan Heaphy as Secretary

6 Any Other Business

Gazebo now put up ready for 31st March for the BBQ. New paving has been installed to the BBQ area from the marquee. Iain Heberton is sorting out the mole catchers in the field. Two prisoners will be helping to cut hedges and beer garden lawn. Sue Plass thanked all members manning registration for all their hard work. Kevin and Liz McAloon thanked the committee for all their hard work. Michelle brought up about the land jutting out between the two areas of the car park and if the curb could be lowered. Geoff says this has been done to normal curb height and it would be a major job to remove the land altogether.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.