

Garvestone Village Hall (New Build) Ltd

Company No. 6847924 Registered Charity No. 1148395

Annual General Meeting Monday 23rd October 2023 at 7:45 Minutes

Present: Directors; Stephen Smith (Chairman); Andrew Blake (Treasurer); Dot Leeder; Ruth Gooch; Jonathan Gooch.

Members; Tim Weatherstone; Michael Garrod; Tamzin Garrod; James Garrod; Rob Fielding; Margie Fielding;

In attendance as guests: Michael Griffin; Jim Smerdon; Jackie Smerdon.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all members and guests.

2. Apologies

Liz Buckley and Margaret Jennings

3. Minutes of the previous AGM on 24th October 2022

All agreed the minutes should be approved. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. Matters Arising

Nothing was raised.

5. Trustees Report

The Chairman reminded all that the report was only to 31st March 2023. The figures show a small loss due to depreciation, and partly due to the catch up on maintenance that had followed the pandemic. He thanked the other trustees, as well as Margaret Jennings and Liz Buckley for all their work in the past, as well as the members for running or supporting our events.

Costs are increasing, as they are for everyone, but we are aiming to keep our costs down, although some essential repairs, such as the shutters and the dishwasher, have to be paid for. Help from members and volunteers is needed for maintenance, and a good example was the Working Party held recently which was really well supported and many thanks go to those who were there.

We are now arranging more events ourselves to provide income. Meet & Eat, Film Nights and Quiz Nights all contribute and we also have regular Pub Nights. More volunteers to help with the bar would be welcome on Fridays, which may enable this to be offered every Friday, instead of just the first and third weeks. We are also considering a New Year's Eve event, possibly running from 8pm until whenever. Some music and socialising, not a huge event.

New members would be welcome plus one or two more to sit on the Board of Directors.

Two people present, Michael Griffin and Jim Smerdon offered to become members, and were thanked by the Chairman.

6. Finance

The Treasurer, Andrew Blake, presented the accounts and explained that the charity was a going concern in the long term, although there appeared to be a loss for the year due to depreciation and lack of income following the pandemic. Income was now growing. We have just over £12,000 in the bank as at today's date. Hopefully expenditure will be less as we have caught up with maintenance issues. The play area has to be kept up to standard and needs more money spent on it. We will be pleased to have volunteers to help with this, in order to keep it open.

One member asked about the type of costs involved in the play area and Dot Leeder gave the removal of the shelter as an example of a cost we had to meet for safety reasons. The 'Spiders Web' frame has to have repair work done also. This could cost £3,000. Grants are available for replacements, but not for repair or maintenance. Dot hopes to meet with parents from the school to explain the need for fundraising. It was agreed that many assume the area is owned and maintained by the school or the Parish Council. It was suggested from the floor that a sign explaining the ownership of the play area, and need for money to maintain it, would be worth considering. Also, a suggestion that a QR code with a link to a donation page could help. Jackie Smerdon offered to investigate the QR code matter.

The meeting approved the accounts, and they were signed by the Chairman.

7. Appointment of Directors

The Chairman explained that, as required by our Company's Articles, Ruth Gooch was to stand down by rotation, but was eligible for re-election. He proposed Ruth Gooch be re-elected. All were in agreement.

Also, Jonathan Gooch was to stand down by rotation, but was eligible for re-election. The Chairman proposed Jonathan Gooch be re-elected. All were in agreement.

Kerry Collinson had been co-opted during the year and was eligible for election to the board. The Chairman proposed Kerry Collinson be elected. All were in agreement.

Other Appointments. During the year Andrew Blake had been appointed as Treasurer.

8. Next Meeting

To be decided and circulated in due course.

9. Discussion

Ideas were discussed, including a question on whether we were registered for re-cycling credits. The Chairman confirmed we were, but we need to encourage more people to use the glass recycling banks.

Andrew Blake thanked the Chairman for organising the Full Alcohol Licence as we can now run a bar for our own events, or for hirers. We need to build stocks and experience before offering this for large events. The Chairman estimated that our regular Pub Nights, if run each week, could produce approximately £4,000 pa.

Various ideas of activities were mentioned (Village Show or sports events on the QEII Field, etc.), but it was pointed out that each one would need a volunteer to run it as the current small number of directors had no more available time to run additional events. Volunteers are always welcomed.

Hire Fees will be reviewed, and it was agreed these need to be increased in line with costs on a regular basis. One person said that in her experience, our rates are low compared to others.

Meeting closed at 8:40 and the bar was opened for refreshments.