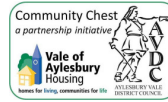




**IVINGHOE OLD SCHOOL COMMUNITY HUB:
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in the Old School, Ivinghoe:
2nd October 2019 at 7.30pm**



Registered Charity Number 1165850

PRESENT: Carol Tarrant, Chair
Bob Corn, Secretary
Claire Bamber, Treasurer
Alex Wynne

Karen Groom
John Wallis
Russell Eyre

APOLOGIES: Sylvia Simmonds, Margaret Holliday

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting with regret that Margaret Holliday had resigned as a Trustee to the Hub, earlier in the year, also that Karen Groom had indicated that she did not wish to stand as a Trustee this year – Carol expressed the gratitude of the remaining Trustees for everyone’s efforts on the Hub’s behalf. Also, Claire Bamber indicated that she would step down as Treasurer and Trustee just as soon as she was able to hand over the books and banking details to a new Treasurer.

Carol also apologised for the late cancellation of the 2018 AGM – caused by the emergency hospitalisation of her daughter – the Chair’s Report and Treasurer’s Report had however been published at the time.

1.0 Previous Minutes – to 2017 Annual General Meeting, also 2018 Chair’s and Treasurer’s Reports:

Approved as accurate records unanimously.

2.0 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

3.0 Chair’s Report:

Carol Tarrant delivered her Chair’s report for the year, as attached – illustrated by projected photographs of a sample of the year’s activities. The report was well received, and the meeting thanked Carol for her hard work during the year.

4.0 Treasurer’s Report:

As attached, delivered by Treasurer Claire Bamber – the report was well received by the meeting, Claire being thanked for her work on the Hub’s behalf.

It is anticipated that Colin Arney will act as Inspector to our next year’s accounts.

5.0 Election of Officers and Trustees:

- 5.1 Chair – Carol Tarrant - proposed by Alex Wynne, seconded John Wallis – carried.
- 5.2 Secretary – Bob Corn - proposed by Alex Wynne, seconded John Wallis – carried.
- 5.3 Treasurer – noting that Claire Bamber will step down as Treasurer and Trustee after the compilation of our 2018/2019 Accountancy Figures – Bob Corn agreed to take on the Treasurer-ship as a dual Secretary/Treasurer role until someone else could carry out the Treasurer role - proposed by Karen Groom, seconded John Wallis - carried
- 5.4 Trustees – Sylvia Simmonds had previously agreed to stand again as Trustee, and John Wallis agreed to stand again – both proposed by Bob Corn, seconded Alex Wynne. Russell Eyre expressed a willingness to stand - proposed by Claire Bamber, seconded by John Wallis.
- 5.5 Bob Corn to update the Charity Commission with the current list of Trustees as soon as practicable.

6.0 Any Other Business:

- 6.1 Bob Corn was asked to approach Colin Arney (Treasurer with the Community Library) to seek his acting as Financial Examiner for our Accounts, as he has carried out this role for the last couple of years.
- 6.2 Alex voiced a concern as to the long-term sustainability of the Trustees in running the Hub – a brief discussion ensued as to Planning, Mapping and Programming of such a sustainability course, noting that we had had a Sustainability Programme about two years previously which had stalled due to lack of Trustee numbers!
- 6.3 The meeting discussed the possibility of holding a ‘Volunteers Fair’ at the Hub, inviting all folk who might be interested in Volunteering for those Groups in the village who relied upon Volunteer Help, and indeed those Groups who rely on Volunteer Help – the Hub itself, the Church, Scouts, the Town Hall, the Library, Parish Council, Guides, the Water Mill, Parish Council, etc., etc. – this to be discussed constructively in future Trustees Meetings, and with other Groups.
- 6.4 Noted that Carol is already advertising for Volunteer Help with ‘Jolly Jobs’ – occasional spot painting, sweeping the yard, watering plants, etc., etc. – if this sort of help could be gained, the Volunteers may become interested in being Trustees!
- 6.5 Bob Corn noted, in Sylvia Simmonds’ absence, that she had expressed a willingness to assist Treasurer Claire Bamber in any capacity which Claire might wish for help in – Claire and Sylvia to discuss.

7.0 Next Meetings:

Ad-hoc meetings as necessary;

November Trustees Meeting – 12th November 2019 at 2.30pm in the IT Room, at the Hub.

2020 Annual General Meeting – 29th September 2020 at 7.30pm, at the Hub





CHAIR'S REPORT, 2nd October 2019

A very warm welcome to all in attending this 2019 Annual General Meeting. Yet another really quite eventful year – and I apologise for the last-minute cancellation of last year's AGM – this was caused by a quite unexpected family emergency which involved hospitalisation of our daughter – all happily now resolved! My Chair's Report for last year was published widely, with our Annual Financial Statement, and I hope everyone read them both; they are available this evening, as are the minutes to the previous year's AGM.

I have to give grateful thanks to retiring Trustee Margaret Holliday – she has given a lot of her time and enthusiasm to the Community Hub Project, particularly to the annual Old Scholars Re-Union, to the Heritage Book and to the purchasing of odd items (scissors, staplers, laminating pouches and such) which all helped in ensuring the running of the Community Hub Project.

FINANCIAL POSITION:

You will see from the Financial Update prepared by Treasurer Claire Bamber that things are maintaining a very healthy direction. Our Bookings in the Hall and in the IT Room regularly attract between £500 and £600 per month, and with regular rent payments from our Café Tenant CurioiTEA Rooms, our funding continues to develop healthily. Our costs in simply running the building (rates, energy costs, telecoms, etc.) are about £500 per month – thus hiring income currently covers our overall running costs.

We did receive a Heart of Bucks Grant of £4,000 in the previous year towards running a Community Exercise Class – this ran very successfully until the end of May this year, when the Grant was expended.

Bob now banks our cash and cheque takings at the Cooperative Bank in Luton at the end of every month, in parallel with handing the monthly spreadsheet, receipts, copy invoices, etc., to Claire.(retiring)

EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Winter Market:

Following a few days spent requesting raffle prizes from local shops and businesses, and decorating of the Hub inside and out as mid-winter, we threw the doors open to the community at 6pm for our Winter market. Held on 23rd November 2018, the winter theme was also celebrating the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Hub itself, and the new 'Old School Community Hub' Building Plaque was unveiled, by myself on a wobbly ladder! CuriosiTEA Rooms ran a Pamper Evening, arranged a 'Petting Zoo', a modest Fairground Ride, a Barbecue, mulled wine, warm drinks and prosecco – several craft tables were booked, selling Christmas Crafts and Gifts. Sylvia and Margaret ran a Tombola and Raffle, and John ran the 'Spin a Picture' game; Sylvia organised a 'Name the Teddy' game, displayed in the Café, and I organised the 'fake' 5th Birthday Cake – with Bob we ran the Roasted Chestnuts stall.

Pancake Races – Shrove Tuesday 5th March 2019:

This, by now, annual event was held on 5th March 2019, deliberately coinciding with the School Bus returning time – Hayley in CuriosiTEA Rooms prepared pancakes for the day, Carol, Bob and Margaret assisting with arranging the Races on the Lawn, using props kept in the IT Room, and ensuring that 'Poundland' glittering medals/trophies were available for all frying pan waving

participants! Great fun for all involved, ending with weary but happy faces adorned with pancake fillings in the Cafe!

Spring Market 20th April 2019 (Easter Saturday):

A lovely village occasion – an attractive array of Petting Zoo, Fairground Rides, Tombola, Jewellery Sales, Face Painting, Second-Hand and Heritage Books, Plants and Easter Egg Hunt – Sylvia and Margaret making £32 for the Hub on Plants and Books, I, with Bob, making a profit of £20.60p on the Easter Egg Hunt; Claire and Karen also giving donations towards the Easter Egg purchase.

‘Village Clean-Up’ on 19th May 2019:

A few village folk responded to our Hub shout-out, and joined in with cleaning up the verges and gutters of the High Street – very successfully as it transpired, as the Village was awarded a ‘Certificate of Merit’ in the ‘Best Kept Village’ competition.

Fruit and Vegetable Show, 13th/14th September 2019:

A very special occasion – really bringing a bit of ‘old Ivinghoe’ back! Working with a ‘dream team’ of a Fruit and Vegetable Show Committee, and them deciding that we should spread the event across the two venues of the Hub and the Town Hall, we helped to put on a very successful show. The Petting Zoo again made an appearance, Margaret and Sylvia manning a Book and Plant Stall, there was a Craft Stall, and Pitstone Allotments had a stall to sell produce. The highlight must be the ‘Inter-Village Challenge’ – the competitive wheelbarrows – although quality of the Fruit and Vegetables on display, with some very attractive crafts and cooking, were all praised by the various judges. A very rewarding village function.

LEASE RENEWAL:

CuriosiTEA Rooms renewed their 3-year lease with us on 1st July 2019 – Trustees discussing this in private meetings and voting for this renewal; many thanks indeed to lawyer Andrea Squires who gave her services free of charge in forming the lease documents. Interestingly, the lease is now jointly with Hayley Wesley and Sven Tonks, rather than previously simply with Hayley Wesley; the lease still contains the ‘two-month either side’ notice period, on the recommendation of Andrea. A welcome service to the Community is now the delivery of ready cooked meals, which Hayley and Sven have introduced, along with a wider menu.

SECOND SATURDAY Table Top Sales:

Table Top Sales are now a regular feature in our Calendar, although with varying degrees of success. Hayley has requested to lead these for a while, though all Trustees are encouraged to join in when they can to promote Community Wellbeing and by being there grab the opportunity to chat with villagers thus extending knowledge of the ‘Community Hub Project’, and maybe gaining more volunteers!

Frequently, Margaret has run a Book Stall, I also have run the Toy Stall three times for Hub funds, and the chatting opportunities are definitely there!

TRUSTEES UPDATE AND SUSTAINABILITY:

The Sustainability Project is still on hold, pending appointment of two or three more Trustees – although the principle of trying to find ‘willing volunteers’ if not full Trustees to assist with day to day tasks in running the Hub is something we would welcome. For example, ‘fun projects’ perhaps known as ‘Jolly-Jobs’ involving asking the community to rally together for a few hours to complete a joint task followed by Tea and Cake – for example spot painting in the main Hall and toilets – as a route towards perhaps choosing some extra Trustees to build our dwindling capacity.

ONE OF OUR SPONSORS – BPL ROOFING LTD.:

Who had generously maintained our Roof free of charge – have themselves gone into liquidation in the Spring of this year – very sad, and we sent a sympathetic note to Ben Large, MD of that Company – henceforth we will still need to keep our Roof Maintenance under review! As we understand it, a reformed roofing company will emerge, although we have not heard more.

PROJECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT and GRANT AWARDS: RESTRUCTURE THE COMMUNITY SPACE FLOOR:

It had been earlier noted that repairing the older mantelpiece side of the two classroom Hub Hall's original 1867 wooden flooring has been taking up a lot of Bob and Carol's time and wood filler and charcoal reproduction likenesses, continuing the constant restructure of said Community Space Floor: Bob had been working with Janet Roffe of AVDC, and Ivinghoe Parish Council, around our applying for funds to restructure the Community Space Floor which is approaching the end of its life through wear and tear.

On advice from District Councillor Derek Town, an application was made through the 'New Homes Bonus' scheme, with the support of Ivinghoe Parish Council who (under the scheme) necessarily will need to administer the funds if awarded.

We have just this last month of September been awarded £10,000 for Floor Refurbishment to the Main Hall; we are in discussion with Arbor Flooring of St.Albans as to when best to carry out the part-reconstruction of the Floor, and re-finishing of the balance of the Floor – we imagine in early January 2020.

STORAGE IN IT ROOM/'MUSEUM STORAGE':

After Trustees' discussions, we decided to pursue the installation of purpose built bespoke designed storage in the IT Room, to house our many useful artefacts, and our burgeoning collection of local historical memorabilia. We had enquired of a local retired builder to have the work carried out, but so far without success.

Happily, the local WEA (Workers' Educational Association) Branch coincidentally offered to make us a grant towards the cost of this storage – they awarded just over £500. Also, the second hand book scheme which is run from the cloakroom (ostensibly to provide back-up funds for the annual Old School Re-Union) has spare funds up to £100 – thus we shall proceed with the installation of the Storage just as soon as our 'volunteer' time will allow!

DEFIBRILLATOR

We were very pleased to have worked with the Parish Council and the WI to have the installation of the Defibrillator on the wall facing the front playground; we were then very pleased to have been generously given £471 specifically for the support of the Defibrillator – given by David Wilton on behalf of his father in law, the deceased Albert Blackwell.

MORE SPENDS TO REPLACE

NOTE that the **Extract Fan in the kitchen** is proving woefully inadequate – we are speaking with the original Kitchen Installation Company as to the installation of a purpose-built extract system; also, we hear that the **Fridge** is not performing to standard (it is not keeping food to a cool enough temperature) – we have asked CuriosiTEA for their recommendation.

FINALLY.....

Personally I have always rated this project on how it feels to be part of it. Initially it was fuelled by passion to not waste the opportunity of rescuing a flat level, four classroom, and well-built historical local community building in the very centre of the village.

The lessening of the chances of isolation for the lonely but ambulant and those in wheelchairs , mothers with prams and using this Hub as a place to commune in comfort, refreshed by the CuriosiTEA Rooms food and drink and conversation, has all come about very satisfyingly. The opportunity to, once arrived at the Hub, be warm in winter and spread out basking in sunshine in summer with families able to oversee children playing nearby on the village Lawn, has been added to by having regular group walks, exercise classes and singing sessions and for those all, particularly helpful for some with Alzheimer's

The Café team and regular Voluntary Hub trustees must be commended for bending over backwards for all and sundry Hub users to fulfil a staggering variety of strange requests and individual fulfilled needs, all as just part of the daily welcome.

From Paved surroundings and garden furniture spread amongst all year round flowering planters to a fully PA system-ed Hall space with cinema style projection - we have improved our provision without raising the booking charges, somehow. So on paper the year was a fulsome and satisfying one. In truth we have had our concerns and as time cracks on, our trustees are inevitably showing signs of becoming weary, which combined with a spending hazard, has caused the project to be cautious on any financial expansion. My own disappointment in the lack of folk stepping forward to volunteer to help run this popular Community Hub is great. I will do my best to convey this request in a warm and welcoming way, masking my wonder that they have not seen the need themselves and offered! We plan to expand our volunteer support dramatically somehow, and then set about expanding our sustainable pleasure dome in myriad ways yet to be thought of!

Carol Tarrant Chair of Trustees

2nd October 2019



Ivinghoe Old School Community Hub.

Financial Briefing as at 30/09/2019.

Bank Balance has improved over the first half of the year from slightly over £10,000 to slightly over £16,000.

This has been helped by funding held over from last year, and (as mentioned by the Chair) by two very generous and much appreciated donations;

One for £471.79 in memory of Albert Blackwell for upkeep of the defibrillator.

Another for £573 from the Workers Educational Association for provision of storage cupboards in the I.T. Room.

A further grant for the refurbishment of the flooring in the main hall has been awarded to IOSCH but does not appear in the accounts as it will be administered by the P.C.

The current bank balance allows us to once again ring fence our 6 monthly reserve to cover running costs in case of an emergency or breakdown of income streams.

Currently our expenditure is running at about £900 a month though we can expect this to increase as the weather changes and the days get shorter.

Despite the improved bank balance if we strip out all the exceptional income boosts from the figures so far this year, we only see a modest excess of income over expenditure. This is a positive situation we hope will continue for the rest of the year but which will need to be monitored throughout the winter.

