

Meeting: No. 1: 18 March 2020 19:00

Attendees: Glenn Reffin (GR), Alison Deakin (AD), Sylvia Weir (SW), Susan Townsend (ST), Gerard Gaynor (GG), John Tickner (JT), David Dodd (DD), Carol Suddick (CS), Felicity Tunnard (FT), Janet Sewell (JS).

Apologies: Paul Dodd, Kathleen Mott.

Chair: Glenn Reffin (GR)

1. Chair of the meeting

The meeting was opened without a willing Chair present and Glenn Reffin was proposed by AD and seconded by DD to act as the Chair for the meeting. This was passed unopposed.

2. Annual reports and accounts

The Annual Reports for the past year were requested and details of the accounts were received verbally.

In summary, the Trust held £2053.89 at the year end, consisting of £370.79 in the current account, £26.50 cash in hand and £1,656.60 in reserves. There was no activity during the year with no income received although there was expenditure on electricity, insurance and water rates. An annual discretionary rebate on community charge had been received. The hall was hired for an Election last year but the fee was not paid until this financial year.

These verbal reports were accepted.

3. Election of Management Committee

Nomination forms were issued with the notices of the AGM and eight nominations had been received in response. Therefore the people named were duly elected and the Management Committee had the power to appoint a further four members.

Those elected to the Management Committee were:

Alison Deakin; David Dodd; Paul Dodd; Gerard Gaynor; Glenn Reffin; Carol Suddick; John Tickner; and Felicity Tunnard.

They would become Management Committee members immediately following the close of this AGM.

4. Election of Officers

The officers of the Trust were elected as follows:

Chair: Glenn Reffin;

Secretary: Alison Deakin; and,

Treasurer: John Tickner.

David Dodd will support Alison Deakin as a Deputy Secretary.

5. Determination of Local Authority representation

GR opened the debate by acknowledging the Constitution grants the AGM the right to determine whether or not to request representation from the Local Authority on the Management Committee.

There was some debate about whether or not representation was necessary and GR stated he believed that it is for the AGM to determine its necessity. It was suggested that as AD had been elected as Secretary, she could act as the Parish representative but GR stated that this would not be acceptable as it would create a conflict of interest.

Continued debate suggested that JS should be the representative until GR clarified that it is not within the powers of the Trust or indeed the AGM to determine the individual who should act as a representative on behalf of a third party organisation. The sole question before the meeting was whether or not it wanted the Local Authority or Parish Council to be represented on the Management Committee.

The meeting determined that the Parish Council should be requested to send a representative and GR took an action to contact the Parish Council to that end.

6. Appointment of Auditors

The Trust does not currently retain Auditors since the independent examiner previously used had died.

As the meeting was unable to determine who could act as an independent examiner or suitable auditor without further information, GR proposed that the matter be taken away by the Management Committee as an action to find and appoint suitable auditors or independent examiners of the books until the next AGM.

The meeting unanimously approved this proposal and **GR** took an action to ensure the matter was taken up by the Management Committee.

7. Any other business

While the Constitution requires any other matters to be notified in writing 14 days before the meeting, GR opened the floor to discuss any other matters in consideration of the current position of the Trust. The following matters were discussed:

- a. **Coronavirus:** GG suggested that following the meeting the Hall would be closed and no further action would be possible until the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic had been resolved as the country was in “shut-down”.

Following general discussion it was accepted that no public events would probably take place for the foreseeable future because of the actions of HM Government, future events could be planned in readiness for the lifting of bans on group activities and a considerable amount of organisation of the Trust needed to be done in the meantime that does not necessarily require face-to-face contact.

- b. **Friends of Lands Village Hall:** GR stated that the various public meetings that had been held to identify interest in the Trust would be drawn together as the “Friends of Lands Village Hall” subcommittee. This subcommittee will have delegated power to raise money for the Trust, organise fundraising events and otherwise assist the Management Committee in bringing the community back to the Hall.

The meeting thought this was a good idea as it would help to retain the general interest in helping.

- c. **Website:** AD raised the matter of a Lands Village Hall website and asked GR to inform the meeting of his proposals. GR said that his business was in web development and hosting and that he has offered to donate to the Trust a domain registration and web hosting package for the Trust to use. As this donation is without charge or remuneration at the current time, this would not be a conflict of interest. In exchange for the donation, a reference would be made to his business as sponsors, as would be the case for any other company donating support to the Village Hall. He has prepared a proposal which will be distributed to the Management Committee for consideration and decision. GR stated he would not participate in its consideration and determination.

The meeting was in general agreement with this approach.

- d. **Newspaper:** ST suggested that the local press could be contacted about our AGM and our determination to save the Hall. This suggestion was taken in hand by the Management Committee.
- e. **Vote of thanks:** Finally, GR proposed a vote of thanks to Sylvia Weir and Susan Townsend for their many years of support to Lands Village Hall and their help with the Trust over the last few years.

GR closed the meeting at 19:35.