

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 17th April 2023

Registered Charity number 1185608

CHAIRMAN

P Guildford

SECRETARY

P Anning

TREASURER

D Wort

Attendees –

Trustees: Peter Guildford, David Wort, Mina Soi-Westby, Peter Anning, Keith Kerr, Nicola Hulme, Claire Carvis

Villagers: Debbie Wort, Gaynor Anning, Maria Ambrozy, Deborah Lord, Judith Kerr

Minutes: Nicola Hulme

1 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman began by welcoming all present to the AGM

2. Apologies for absence – Eddie Tinsley, Malcolm Brook, Janita & Jim Dediccoat, Brian & Jan Dower, Jonathan Wilson, Ross Cunliffe

3. The Minutes of the AGM of 13/06/2022 were approved as a true record

4. Chairman's report

We will be covering the period January to December 2022.

At the beginning of the year, Nicola indicated her wish to stand down as the (Village Hall) manager. We were pleased with the number of people that applied for the role, and after a thorough interview process, led by Mina, we appointed Maria into the role. We deliberately planned a slow handover, to give us the opportunity to get to know Maria, and also during this period we asked her to conduct a complete review of all hire rates.

Paying particular attention to the value for local residence and also documenting the fees charged by similar halls and meetings rooms in our surrounding area. To remind you, we had not raised the hire fees to local residents and groups for circa eight years, and the review coincided with the initial emergence of the energy crisis, and the need to apply an additional supplement to all fees to cover the extraordinarily high fuel increases. While we were considering an amount for the energy supplement, it became clear that we were also going to have to raise rates because of the overall level of general inflation raging at the time and still over 10%. This increase in inflation, which has been heavily publicised, will definitely result in fees having to be permanently increased. Our previous policy of subsidising local fees from Commercial revenue has come under pressure recently. The overall level of inflation in the country has resulted in less people, certainly at this time, wishing to hire venues for major events, particularly weddings. We are hoping that this trend will abate, and that our high level of subsidy will be maintainable, but time will tell, and it may result in locals having to pay more realistic fees going forward.

The manager handover period completed at the end of this financial year, end of December. During the year, we welcomed Ross to our team as an Associate Trustee. I am pleased to tell you that following Nicola standing down from the hall managers role, she accepted the Trustee's invitation to join the team. The Trustees also invited Claire to join our team, and I'm pleased to tell you she also accepted our invitation. At our last meeting on the 13th March, we also formalised the appointment of Jonathan Wilson as an Associate Trustee, welcome to the team Jonathan. These appointments are all to enable us to work towards, what I have described as, "the changing of the guard" Some of the long-standing members have indicated that it will not be long now before they will say, it's their time to stand down and let the new Trustees take over. Over time I have been lucky to work with an experienced and long serving group which has made my role considerably easier. To the team, thank you all for your service to our charity, it's very much appreciated

5. Treasurer's report

The Hall continues to be a key amenity for East Keswick, used by many residents and others from outside the Village. It plays an important role being one of the few places in the Village where people of all ages can meet, enjoy themselves and indulge their interests and pastimes.

The use of the Hall and the associated letting income has been improved with the loosening of Covid 19 regulations, to £61,054 (2021: restated 36,217), including a receipt of Government grants £2,667 (2021: £11,096) and partial (2021: partial) rates relief.

Full details of the accounts can be found under the administration section of our web site.

6. Trustees

The following Trustees have agreed to continue their role:

Peter Guildford – Chairman

Peter Anning – Secretary

David Wort – Treasurer

Malcolm Brook

Mina Soi-Westby

Janita Dedicoat

Keith Kerr

Eddie Tinsley

Nicola Hulme

Claire Carvis

Ross Cunliffe (Associate Trustee)

Jonathan Wilson (Associate Trustee)

The formal part of the AGM closed at 7.45pm

Keith Kerr - gave a vote of thanks to the Trustees for their incredible hard work and in particular, Peter Guildford, David Wort & Peter Anning

The Chairman then offered to take questions- no questions were presented

The meeting closed at 7.50pm