

Minutes of Sharrington Village Hall A.G.M held on 22nd May 2018

Outgoing Committee: David Allison (DA)(Co-opted Member), Robin Hyslop (RH), Roger Dubbins (RD) (Acting Chairperson), Bobbie Coe (BC) (Treasurer), Gary Grunwald (GG), Chris Abrams (CA), Ann Abrams (AA)

Attendees: Clare Dubbins (CD), Debbie Hyslop (DH), Sandra Grunwald (SG), Derek Harris (DHa), Bob Brownbill (BB)

Apologies: Pippa Long, Martyn Sloman

1. **Minutes of 2017 AGM** were unanimously approved.
2. **Trustees Report** was delivered by RD (see attached).
3. **Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2017.** RD reported that the Committee was not happy with the way the accounts were prepared but felt the additional cost was not warranted to change them (see explanatory notes attached to the accounts).

CD asked about the inclusion of 'Chick Lit' expenditure as it was in the preceeding accounting period. RD explained it was an oversight on his part in not putting in a claim for expenses on time.

SG pointed out that the cash float should not be shown as expenditure.

RD stated that the Committee was aware that the accounts were not in line with Charity Commission guidelines. The Committee agreed to look into this for coming year.

The accounts were approved with one abstention (SG) who wanted the Committee to look into getting another accountant.

DA undertook to ask an accountant who had recently moved into Brinton if he could help us as it would, hopefully, not cost too much more.

4. Refurbishment Project.

4.1 RD reported that phase one of the refurbishment project had been completed and asked GG to report on phase two. GG reported that the Committee was looking for grant funding for new comfortable, stackable chairs and lighter stackable tables. He had applied to 'Awards for All' (part of the National Lottery) and had given them additional clarifying information. He thought that the Committee would be informed if the application was successful by the end of May. If unsuccessful he had identified other organisations to approach but the Hall was unable to satisfy the criteria for most of the available grants.

4.2 CA reported that the hedge cutting around the Hall was to be undertaken by Albanwise later in year but the Committee was of the view that the hedge boarding property to right of site should not be cut given the sensitivity of the adjoining owner.

4.3 AA asked if anyone was willing to help paint the remainder of the hall as part of the second phase of the refurbishment project they should let her know. The phase will include – kitchen, toilets, cloakroom/bar area and the back room. RD stated if the Committee was unable to get volunteers it would consider paying someone to undertake the work.

5. Insurance.

5.1 RD explained that the Committee had decided to review the buildings insurance cover and had commissioned an online valuation made available by the insurers (Allied Westminster). As a result cover had been increased in accordance with the current valuation of the property and the garage and in line with the Committee's assessment of the current value of the contents. This had resulted in the following increases:-

- Hall from £218,000 to £417,000
- Outbuilding from £9,000 to £21,000
- Contents from £5,800 to £12,500 (to include the new equipment purchased as part of phase one of the refurbishment project)

5.2 The Committee had also decided to add cover for the trustees who are all volunteers.

5.3 As a result the premium had risen from £421 to £656. The Committee thought it would not be necessary to increase the cover for the next few years but the increase in premium was an example of the need to raise additional funds year on year. Next year RD would approach NFU for a competitive quote.

6. Use of Hall.

6.1 RD stated that every year the Committee asks people in the village for ideas on hall usage. Historically events that were supported no longer appeal. The music evenings continue to bring in much needed revenue but the Committee has had to cut back on number of events due to the time it takes in organisation. The Film Night ('Through Lotte's Lens') only generated about £150.

6.2 RH enjoyed the Art Deco talk but takings were disappointing.

6.3 RD expressed the view that the Hall needs to generate more per event to make the effort worthwhile.

6.4 DH has been trying to ascertain interest in a Zumba class. The lady who runs the sessions will give us a trial class for 10 people and they are popular in other local villages. The organiser would pay for hire of hall from her takings and would charge participants on a monthly basis for a daytime or evening session. A Zumba class combines exercise as well as being a social event and should be fun. Other villages also have W.I. which seems a good social activity. Finding the right activity to appeal to residents and those living locally is always a challenge.

6.5 BC reiterated that hall hiring costs £10 an hour or £8 if a village resident/group is hiring.

6.6 SG asked if the Committee was looking for fund raising events or hall usage. RD stated he would like to see more usage. DHa pointed out that regular events would give a stable income. RD agreed it would be good to do less fund raising events which require a lot of work. The Committee currently relies on revenue from the 50/50 Club, the Christmas Fayre and now the Live Music Nights to pay the Hall's bills. The Committee would also encourage events that do not require its involvement to run.

6.7 RH pointed out that if people come to a regular event they are more likely to hire the hall for something else. DHa agreed.

6.8 DH felt that advertising could not be relied upon to get support for events. It's about word of mouth to friends and acquaintances with encouragement to attend.

6.9 RH enjoyed film evenings; could we have more of those? CD pointed out that Holt Community Centre struggles with some of its films and choosing something that appeals to a large number is not easy.

6.10 Some lively discussion followed on hiring a 'sing along' film with bar and selling ice cream.

7. The Future of the Hall.

RD voiced concern about support for the Trustees in fulfilling their role in the future and in engaging new people. The Hall has historically had peaks and troughs in usage and income and it would be nice to have some new younger blood on board. He requested that we all think of whom to approach.

8. The Fate of the Piano.

8.1 CA gave the history of the piano being removed from the stage due to worries over health and safety issues and usage. Malcolm Green had reported that woodworm had been discovered in the woodwork. The piano is very heavy and large and cannot currently easily be moved from the main hall. He expressed the view that no one wants to use it as people now use keyboards. He thought that removal to the garage would only hasten its deterioration. RD proposed that we decide on its future.

8.2 DH expressed her sadness at its proposed removal as it was part of the village hall fabric. SG asked whether the woodworm was treatable and, if so, could the work be carried out?

8.3 RH also felt that it was part of the 1950's village hall and should be kept but was also concerned that the woodworm could have come from the stage.

8.4 RD pointed out that the piano had not been used for three years until the crew from the 'Through Lotte's Lens' film used it. There was a need to balance the 'cost' of keeping

the piano against the revenue or added usage it can generate. RD proposed a vote: Four wanted to keep the piano, 5 dispose of it and there were 3 abstentions. RD agreed we would give it a 6 month 'stay of execution' when, unless used, it would be disposed of.

8.5 With the imminent need for space in hall with Magna Carta concert and music night where can we put it meanwhile? GG suggested it gets wheeled outside and covered against damp for the evening of performance only. This was agreed.

9. Retirement and Election of Committee.

RD had stood down as chairman at the beginning of April due to ill health. He had continued as Acting Chairman but would not stand as Chairman for the next 12 months; he was willing to remain on the Committee. No members had been nominated by the PCC, the Parish Council or the Sharrington Society. DA indicated that he was willing to continue as co-opted representative of Brinton village. All current Committee members were unanimously re-elected. DH and DHa both expressed their thanks for work of the Committee to date.

10.A.O.B.

10.1 BC raised the possible disposal of the red chairs which were currently taking up room in garage. RD agreed we could dispose of them if funding is available for new chairs. GG pointed out that, as they were retro, the Committee could probably sell them. As DA has an ebay account he would look into this.

10.2 DH asked what was being done about the spring on the inner glass doors which was not fixed and let in a draught. AA pointed out it had been fixed under phase one but had broken again. RD would put it on the agenda for the committee meeting 16th July.

10.3 DH stated that a plan for a defibrillator in the telephone box could not go ahead as the phone box has won a reprieve. She asked if the village hall committee would consider it being sited there. RD supported in principle this idea but wanted to know the financial implications. DH would investigate and get back to the Committee.

10.4 DH also enquired about the village hall involvement, if any, in WW1 celebration in November. AA gave an outline of what she and Lesley Forrest are proposing over the two sites (church and hall) for the 10th and 11th of November.