

## **Minutes of Buckland Newton Village Hall AGM held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

### **Attendance**

Kate Parish (KP), Georgie Burnett (GB), Ian Scott (IS), Katharine Hayens (KH), Nicki Barker (NB), Michelle Crozier-Jobber (MC-J), Caron White(CW) and Vinny McKenna (VM).

1. Apologies - Jenny Ferreira (JF) and Sandi Stout (SS).
2. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting, were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair (KP).
3. Matters arising. None.
4. Chairs' report

### **Buckland Newton Village Hall, Chair's Report**

#### **June 2023 – June 2024**

In the financial year April 2023 – April 2024 the Hall continued to struggle to cover its running costs. However, in April 2024 the Hall secured a contract with Dorset Council to act as the venue for a Rural Family Hub, one day a week for 50 weeks of the year, for two years. This funding has secured the Hall financially for two years and provides time for the Committee to review how:

- The Hall is used.
- It can increase its users/hirers.
- The hire costs reflect the running costs of the Hall.

Dorset Council have also agreed to fund improved storage facilities at the Hall, the provision of a freezer and new beanbags for user groups to use.

### **Maintenance & Cleaning**

Following concerns regarding the appearance of mould in the disabled and gents, Committee members identified that the roof covering the front part of the Hall (over the toilets, entrance and utility area, had in fact perished and that it was possible to see daylight through the roof.

Following an inspection and submission of an agreeable quote, Nick Baker has commenced the work to replace the roof, with the additional benefit of insulation and the fitting of fascias and soffits under the eaves, which it is

hoped will prevent pipes freezing and mould appearing on the ceilings, and lower heating bills this winter.

Prior to this work commencing Committee members and user group representatives came together in June to have a much needed clear out of the Hall. A “Man & A Van” with two lads, helped remove an entire 7 ton truck load of “stuff”, freeing up the front loft space and sorting out various cupboards under the stage, in the kitchen, the rear loft space and in the back store room.

Since the last AGM the ceiling tiles in the main hall have been either been replaced or refitted and a new energy efficient fridge has been purchased for the kitchen.

Debbie our cleaner, continues to provide a wonderful service but the Hall was unable to retain its gardener, who felt it was difficult to fit the Hall into his busy schedule. The need for a gardener has provided a more general opportunity to find someone who can not only keep on top of the grounds’ maintenance, but also provide some general caretaking duties to the Hall. This work has been commenced by Mick Ames and further work will be subject to the approval of the Hall Committee.

The Hall has also welcomed Michelle Crozier to the role of Treasurer and thanks Vinny McKenna for his work as Treasurer over the last few years, in particular the deregulation of the Hall for VAT and for completing so many VAT returns prior to that.

### **Looking Forward**

New hirers still need to be found for the Hall, particularly on Friday evenings and at weekends, although children’s parties continue to be popular. Once the Hall Committee has agreed the hire charges for the coming year, it will review its promotional literature and have another push at advertising the Hall’s availability to the local community and commercial hirers for 2024 and beyond.

#### **5. Treasurer’s report.**

### **Income**

- rental income has increased by 36% over the past year – fantastic news as more people use the hall again after COVID and there has been an increase in the number of children’s parties.

- A rise in interest rates has also boosted the amount of bank interest we are receiving on our deposit account.

## Expenses

- Electricity prices have stabilised over the past year and our costs for 23/24 were £1000 while oil prices have also come down with Oil costing £800 for the year 23/24
- Cleaning costs are on a par with last year
- Repairs and maintenance costs this year have included repair to the Hall ceiling at £765, electrical work of £694, fencing by the oil tank of £400 and a new fridge at £250

Although the hall has reduced its expenditure and increased income this year, we still have a shortfall of expenditure over income of 26%

The family hub funding, having been secured for the next two years, will more than cover this shortfall but we need to increase our charges/usage to cover these costs by the end of that period.

KP commented that though the hall was in good condition we need to achieve more income. NB raised the issue of grounds maintenance. KP stated that this issue is in hand.

6. Items raised from the floor – none.
7. Resignation of existing representatives, elected and co-opted members who were elected in July 2023. In accordance with the charity scheme all committee members resigned.
8. Nominations to the hall management committee from user organisations wishing representation.
  - JF – Friday Lunch Club
  - SS – Exercise Classes
  - KP- Youth Club
  - CW – Artsreach
  - GB – Little Goslings
  - KH – Gardening Club
  - LC – Village Cafe
9. Election of new 'Elected Members'

IS proposed NB and KP seconded  
NB proposed IS and KP Seconded  
NB proposed MC-J and KH seconded

10. Declaration of acceptance by new charity trustees signing in the minute book (see separate document).
11. Appointment of auditors – As the appointment of auditors is discretionary, it was decided not to appoint an auditor.
12. Any other business – none.

Meeting closed at 10.15am