



RUSHDEN
HERTFORDSHIRE

Rushden Village Hall Committee AGM

7.45pm Monday 17 April 2023
Minutes

PRESENT:

Sue Whiting (Chair), Alison Penfold (Treasurer), Crissie Flemming (Secretary),
Jenny Barlow, Carole Littlechild, Sandra Sargusingh, Karen Pettyfer (PCC rep) Linda Hill (PC rep)

APOLOGIES:

Sue Whiting, Ricky Moore, Lucy Moore, Paul Cranwell

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of last year's AGM (6 April 2022) were approved and signed.

Ensure we know the yearly costs of running the Hall.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This year once again proved a challenge as we continued the transition away from the tough restrictions demanded by Covid and eased back towards "normality", a difficult process as some members of our community were understandably cautious about social mixing. However, it was satisfying to see more events taking place that attracted a diverse group of people both from within the village and further afield. This would not have been possible without the sterling efforts of all the Committee and the many additional volunteers who stepped in to make the events run smoothly. We thank everyone for their enthusiastic participation whether it was in running events, taking part or making donations.

Fundraising

Once again we had a very successful summer fete with a range of stalls, great food and entertainment, including demonstrations by our local bell ringers which proved very popular and resulted in new members for the bell ringers group! The attendance and positive atmosphere was helped by the fabulous weather although this sadly meant that we could not run the very popular Dog Show. Let's hope we have the same sunshine but not quite as hot for this year's Fete which is already shaping up to be very exciting with a bird display and one of our local celebrities, Rachel singing.

Christmas saw a number of events offered to further widen community participation. Our first Rushden Elf hunt proved very popular with much joyful shrieking as families hunted down the elves. We successfully "hijacked" December's Friday BBQ which proved a lively evening while the Christmas Draw again proved very popular. Once again we thank Jenny for her generosity in providing such a wonderful hamper and to many others who made donations.

January saw the return of Rushden's Quiz Night which was so popular that it was oversubscribed. It was an evening of great fun and all participants enjoyed home-made chilli kindly provided by volunteers. A special thanks to Eddie our Quiz Master for providing such a great quiz; it was both fun and highly competitive.

Hall hire

Once again the Friday night social BBQs run by Chip and Brian proved very popular and Eva's Lace Club continues to thrive. It has been wonderful to add two Fitness classes to Wednesday morning that are growing in popularity.

Building repair and Maintenance

This year we have had to deal with a water leak that resulted in damage to the ladies cloakroom, a broken water heater which needed replacing and roof tiling repairs. We are fortunate that we were able to enlist the help of our local plumber Richard and roofer, Steve to complete the repairs in a timely manner and with minimal cost.

Most recently an initial concern raised by a member of the Committee about the poor condition of the exterior woodwork resulted in a conversation about repainting versus replacing with UPVC. This in turn led to an in-depth investigation around the best way to address the issue of both the rotting fascias and more worryingly a rotten purlin. This required significant efforts on the part of a number of Committee members most notably Carole, Sandra and Ali for which we are very grateful. The preferred solution to the problem was agreed following a lengthy discussion about the possible solutions identified by the two tenders received at an additional Committee meeting. This was agreed as the immediate solution while recognising that we will need to replace the entire roof, ideally within the next 10 years. This will entail a very significant push on fundraising and extensive time investigating possible grants.

At the same time that we were assessing the state of the fascias and roof we discovered a problem of raised flooring near the entrance which is hazardous. This will be dealt with by the successful contractor for the fascias and purlin.

The redecoration of the ladies cloakroom and the exterior doors is currently being undertaken; a big thanks to Sandra for organising this so quickly.

It has become very apparent that the Village Hall needs a great deal of maintenance; this will need constant vigilance on the part of the Committee if we are to ensure that it will meet the needs of our community long into the future.

The escalating costs of aim of replacing the running and maintaining the Hall alongside the longer term roof mean that we need to further increase our fundraising efforts. I am optimistic that if we can enlist the help of even more members of the community to support each event then we can facilitate an even wider range of events for the whole community to enjoy and so raise the much needed funds next year.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the Committee for the excellent support they have given me in my first year as Chair and extend my thanks to our new members who have brought new ideas and great enthusiasm.

Sue Lewis

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts have been circulated, together with breakdowns of the main sources of income and expenditure.

OVERVIEW

As at 31st March 2023, there were total funds available of £16,522.40. Of this, £4,103.78 is in the current account, £12,058.62 in the deposit account and £360 in cash.

Overall, a profit of £2,204.72 was made compared to a loss of £1,448.54 the previous year, so an improvement of £3,653.26. A full list of the variances is shown in the accounts, but the main variances are as follows:

| | | Variance (£) |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Reduction in repairs and maintenance. | Last year's expenditure included electrical work (>£2k), work to the roof (>£950), new shutters for the kitchen (£860) and plumbing work (£200). An analysis of this year's charge | 3,825 |

| | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| | is included in the accounts pack. | |
| Quiz night held this year but not last year | | 1,007 |
| Increased electricity costs this year | Last year we benefited from a refund because of overpayments in previous years due to COVID. The charge of £789 this year covers the electricity up to 31st December 2022. | (810) |
| Reduction in hall hire income this year | | (381) |
| Reduction in water rates | Water rates for the year ended 31st March 2023 (£153.25) were actually paid in the previous financial year. Hence, we had 2 years' charge in last year's accounts, so none this year. | 300 |
| Increase in website costs | | (192) |
| Cake sale not held this year | | (160) |
| Community Grant received last year | | (100) |
| | OVERALL EFFECT OF THE ABOVE | £3,489 |

Included under miscellaneous expenses is the cost of the surplus drink stock from the quiz night held in January 2023. It is hoped that this can be sold at a future event but has been expensed for prudence.

OUTLOOK

Whilst the results for year ending 31st March 2023 are pleasing, we need to be mindful that significant expenditure is required in the current year which mean our funds are likely to be depleted by at least 25% so fund raising is vitally important.

ALI PENFOLD, TREASURER

PCC REPORT

The PCC continue to be grateful for the support of the village hall committee and the village community.

We have appointed Nigel Gent to decorate the interior of the church but are awaiting approval from the diocese to start work.

Bell ringing is flourishing with 8 now living in the village and bands regularly visiting to ring.

A talk on the History of the church to a local retirement group was a successful fundraiser with the added bonus of finding the remains of a sundial on the south wall of the knave.

Obviously our new Rector Sarah, her husband Sam and her 3 boys are our priority at the moment as we work to support her in leading our benefice team. Her installation is on May 13th at Weston and we are looking for donations of cakes for a buffet after the service. Her first service is at Clothall on May 14th at 10am and her first one in Rushden is Evensong on May 21st. We also look to recruit another churchwarden and increase the number of people coming to church.

Karen Pettyfer (Churchwarden)

PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

- 1 The bus shelter was repaired and reroofed by Steve Pettyfer and Ian Roper. A grant towards the cost of materials was given by NHDC.
- 2 The council has investigated the drainage problem in Treacle Lane and cleared obstructions.
- 3 Planning: Daisy Barn has been granted permission for a house in their garden. The application for a very large modern house was refused. The McNally application for a house between Field Cottage and Rainbow End has been withdrawn. The Moon and Stars extension has been modified on planning officer's advice and a decision is pending.
- 4 A weight limit is proposed for the A507 but with exceptions for access to villages for farm vehicles, deliveries etc.
- 5 Land adjacent to Shaw Green which was sold recently is to be planted as a native tree woodland as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Linda is to be stepping down from her role and Jenny Barlow is to be taking it on. We thanked Linda for her excellent service and help over the years, she will be very missed.

Linda Hill (PC rep)

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

The re-appointment of the remaining trustees and seconded as follows:

| | Proposed | Seconded |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sue Lewis (Chair) | Carole Littlechild | Ali Penfold |
| Carole Littlechild (Vice Chair) | Sandra Sargusingh | Crissie Flemming |
| Ali Penfold (Treasurer) | Carole Littlechild | Sandra Sargusingh |
| Crissie Flemming (Secretary) | Sue Lewis | Carole Littlechild |
| Paul Cranwell | Crissie Flemming | Carole Littlechild |
| Ricky Moore | Sue Lewis | Sandra Sargusingh |
| Lucy Moore | Crissie Flemming | Sandra Sargusingh |
| Sue Whiting | Sue Lewis | Ali Penfold |
| Sandra Sargusingh | Carole Littlechild | Crissie Flemming |
| Jenny Barlow | Sandra Sargusingh | Sue Lewis |

AOB

A decision to try and encourage people to attend next year with cheese and wine.