

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Newton on the Moor Jubilee Hall Trustees, held on Wednesday 4th August 2021.

Present:

Liz Rixon (Chair)
Judy Williams (Treasurer)
Greg Anderson
Alison Cowen
Dudley Williams
Alison Gallico (Secretary).

In attendance: David Rixon.

Apologies for absence: Diane Williams, Jen Oliver.

1. Minutes of the AGM 2020

It was pointed out that our fees had not increased during the year, other than the charge for use as a polling station.

Minutes accepted, Proposed DW, Seconded GA.

2. Chairman's report.

The Chairman said that her report covered the longest period during which the Hall had been closed to the public in its history as a village hall. Activities ceased in mid-March 2019 when the government suddenly imposed restrictions as Coronavirus spread throughout the UK. Since then and for the whole of our financial year 2020-2021, we had been unable to welcome the groups and individuals who have used the Hall regularly for years.

Nonetheless the Trustees had continued to meet regularly on Zoom to carry out the charity's business and to make decisions about the

Hall's care and its finances. There were no events as such to report, but in October the first cake sale was held, organised by Alison Cowen and Jen Oliver, to whom the Trustees are very grateful. For five months, orders were placed on line or by phone, and customers collected their cakes under Covid-secure conditions on the following Saturday. Nearly £500 was raised in this financial year through these sales which proved very popular with our regular visitors.

The hall was awarded a £10,000 single payment Covid Continuity Grant by Northumberland County Council which helped considerably towards expenses over the Winter. Some elements of the usual running costs did not feature, eg the Music Licence. However, the Trustees faced some larger continuing costs, in particular the cost of insurance and heating over this long cold winter. The insurers specified the level of heating required and it would have been foolhardy not to comply. We had a complete boiler overhaul which rectified some shoddy and dangerous work carried out by previous contractors. This cost about £1,000 to rectify.

The long closure enabled work to take place on a complete refurbishment of the kitchen, which was at risk of failing to meet the statutory requirements for service of food to the public. Much of this work was generously carried out by John & Alison Cowen & Greg Anderson, with specialist help brought in as required. The kitchen was rewired, replumbed and given a new floor. New units as well as a separate hand basin and a commercial dishwasher were installed, to which the Parish Council kindly contributed. Andy & Astrid Ferguson generously provided a replacement cooker and a new fridge/freezer and microwave were donated by Alison Gallico and Diane Williams respectively.

During the work on the kitchen wiring, the inspector identified issues with the wiring at the main consumer unit and work was done throughout the hall in order to obtain complete electrical

certification which is required for our insurance. This will be effective until 2026 so was another job worth doing while the Hall was empty.

The Parish Council gave the Hall a second grant towards the end of the year to repair and restore the catslide roof over the kitchen. This roof is continuous with that of our neighbour and we had discussions with him about doing the work jointly. Eventually our volunteers carried out work to the interior of the ceiling to enable rewiring, insulation and redecoration to take place.

During the year the Trustees approved a change of status for the charity to provide more financial protection for trustees. This was with a view to encouraging easier trustee recruitment as the present trustees near retirement or wish to pursue other interests. On 8th February 2021 the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) of Newton on the Moor Jubilee Hall, charity No 1193440 was entered into the Register of Charities. While some administrative work remains, the CIO should be fully operational during 2021.

Derek Ferguson kindly covered the balance of the cost of our new chairs. We were most grateful and thought this was a fitting memorial to Kate who felt so strongly about the state of the old ones.

In June our old friend, neighbour and former Jubilee Hall Committee member, Hilary Stokoe, died. She had been a stalwart of the Hall from the 1970s to the present day, waitressing at Suppers, Music Halls and supporting all other activities. At our Coffee Mornings, her meringues were legendary. The Chairman said that the community will miss her sense of mischief and her support. Rest in peace, Hilary.

We are fortunate to have so many friends to whom we can turn for help. The Chairman particularly thanked John Cowen for all his help, ably supported by Alison C and by Greg Anderson. She also thanked

Alison G for her ability to wrestle with the legal complexities of running a facility like the Hall; Judy, a first-rate treasurer, and Dudley for his research into grant opportunities and funding. She expressed her heartfelt thanks to each and every member of the Trustee board.

Some of our regular music groups returned in June and the Hall will be re-opening in August with its first coffee morning of 2021. The Chairman expressed the wish that this would be the start of business as usual so that the excellent facilities of the Jubilee Hall could be enjoyed by our local community once more.

There was a vote of thanks to John, Alison and Greg for their outstanding work on the kitchen refurbishment.

AG proposed that the Chairman's report be accepted, seconded by JW and carried.

3 Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer reported that the finances were in good shape, despite having no income during the year other than the £10,000 grant from NCC and £451 from cake sales. At the year end, the bank balance stood at just under £13,000 which was £3,000 more than the year-end balance in 2020. This was despite there being no letting income at all. It had not been possible to access any of the other grants offered by NCC since the Hall did not offer direct services to the public for which they were designed.

In discussion, she commented on the kitchen refurbishment, which was a remarkable achievement for under £7,500. The installation of the defibrillator was another major expense.

The accounts were proposed by AC and seconded by GA, Carried.

4. **The Chairman and Secretary** were re-elected un-opposed. Members were reminded that the rotation of officers had been recommenced from 2020 as it was in disarray. The Treasurer and Vice-Chairman will be up for election in 2022.

5 **The remainder of the Board of Trustees** were re-elected unopposed. They are; Greg Anderson, Alison Cowen, Dudley Williams, Diane Williams.

6. **AOB.**

a. **CIO.**

The Secretary reported that after a 16 week delay, the Charity Commission had sent a Deed permitting the transfer of the assets of the existing charity to the new CIO. She and the Treasurer would deal with the banking arrangements and the old charity will be wound up once the asset transfer has taken place. The remaining three Trustees will now be added to the board of the CIO.

b. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022.**

AG proposed that the Trustees should organise a community lunch on "Big Jubilee Lunch Day" – Sunday 5th June 2022. Although street parties were envisaged, this might be difficult in Newton and the Hall would give the advantage of weather-proofing the event. Other suggestions included a commemorative tree (AC) and a garden bench. It was agreed to move further discussion to a routine committee meeting, but in principle it was felt that the Trustees should take the lead in organising a village celebration.

The AGM ended at 8.15.