

Maten Village Hall AGM

Sunday 4th February 2024

Present: Rachael Dempsey, Phil Chaffer, Struan Wilson, Richard Szweda, Liz Bishop, Sarah Belton

1. Apologies for absence

Jean Conteh, Rachel Scheffer

2. Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th February 2023

Proposed by Phil, seconded by Rachael

3. Chair's Annual Report (Rachael)

Rachael presented the chair's report, she thanked the trustees for all their help, especially Phil for all his hard work and support he had given to the village hall. She also thanked Liz and Jean for their work sorting the cupboard and Don for his work cleaning the hall.

Rachael then gave an overview of the successes of the year, including that 5 activities per week are using the hall. It is also used by the Great Whittington and Matfen W.I., Matfen Parish council, Matfen church, the Cricket club and the Northumbria Police have used it for their community training. The weekends are kept busy with children's parties and private bookings.

Some of the other highlights of the year were the quiz night, Movie night and the Christmas shopping event, all of which were well supported.

The year also saw work on the refurbishment of the toilets, one problem encountered was the overflow pipe, which had to be sorted before the work could be completed. The new toilets have been finished and people have said how pleased they are with the new toilets.

Looking forward to 2024, Rachael said that we would need to find a new treasurer to replace Phil, who has done a superb job in the role. She also said how she valued his contribution immensely.

Acceptance of the Chair's report: proposed by Richard, seconded by Phil.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts (Phil)

Phil presented the annual report. He said that we start the year with a healthy balance (£15,165). This is after major project spends of £33,080 on the new projects such as the new toilets, which had additional work after rotten wood was discovered. Without the improvement projects the day to day running costs compared to the Income from use of the Hall showed a loss of £942.65.

Phil asked at this point whether we needed a Public Entertainment licence, as we only needed it once in the last year. On consideration however it was decided to keep the music licence as we might need it for events such as the quiz night.

Phil then went on to highlight costs, which have risen considerably during the year. Biomass had gone from £25 to £65 per month, electricity from £20 to £36 and there had also been other increases to costs.

Phil said that there is plenty of funds going forward and that possible projects for next year's committee would be to buy a generator for the emergency hub, look at the possibility of improving the kitchen, which would need thought and a new oven. The windows are still getting condensation and the need to look at the extension roof.

With the £65 a month fee for biomass, there may need to review fees for the Village Hall. However Phil also pointed out that we have our regular users to look after to ensure that they keep using the hall.

Phil thanked Lynne Urwin and Alan Poskit for auditing the Village Hall account.

Acceptance proposed by Rachael, seconded by Richard.

5. Appointment/election of trustees for 2024

Our trustees for 2023 were:

Rachael Dempsey, Phil Chafer, Richard Szweda, Struan Wilson

The remaining four trustees expressed interest in standing again. Sarah Belton also volunteered to become a trustee.

It was proposed that these 5 trustees should be put forward for 2024

Officer roles will be agreed at a meeting after the AGM.

The requirement for trustees for the charity is more than three and up to 9.

Acceptance proposed by Rachael, seconded by Phil

6. Report from user groups (if any)

Jean gave an update on the use of the Village Hall by the WI. She said that the Great Whittington and Matfen WI meet in the summer in Great Whittington and in the winter in Matfen. They had 5 meetings in Matfen, moving to Great Whittington in November because of work on the toilets. Jean also said that they held their Christmas social event in the Village Hall, inviting other groups to join them and a great time was had by all. She thanked the trustees for maintaining the hall so that they could continue meeting here.

Jean then went on to the Matfen Community Newsletter, which goes out six times a year to over 200 e-mail addresses, with one reader in New Zealand but since then by Rev Rachel's email list and a paper copy to a couple of people. A group of loyal contributors provide content about community activities and features for every addition. Sarah Greaves (chair of the Parish Council) also contributes regularly. She said that it would be great to have contributions from the trustees of the village Hall.

7. AOB

Struan thanked Rachael for all the hard work she had put in as chair of the Village Hall.

8. Next AGM

Date and time of next AGM: Feb 2, 2025