The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman Martyn Robinson.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Sean Barrington, Martin Sandercombe, Margaret Sandercombe, Liz Newton, Mike Newton, and Judy Veness. 11 people were present.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 2019 AGM had been circulated to the village on the email list and posted on the village website in advance. There were no matters arising. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

No meeting took place in 2020 due to Covid pandemic restrictions. The Chairman therefore announced that the meeting would cover the two financial years: 2019/20 and 2020/21.

1. Appointment of Committee

Two members of the previous committee, Tony Crocker (Treasurer) and Sean Barrington, have decided not to stand again this year. Tim Ledger kindly offered to take on the role of Treasurer from Tony. Tony will continue as Treasurer until the end of the current financial year, and then hand over to TIm

The Chairman thanked Tony Crocker for his excellent management of the finances during a difficult year and for leaving the finances in such a healthy situation despite the trials of the covid pandemic. The Chairman also expressed thanks to Sean Barrington for his long service to the village hall over many years.

**New Committee**

The following were appointed unopposed to the committee for the coming year, proposed by June Watkins and seconded by Jenny Morisetti:

* Martyn Robinson (Chairman)
* Tony Crocker (Treasurer until 31 March 2022)
* Tim Ledger (Treasurer from 1 April 2022 onwards)
* Steve Veness (Secretary)
* Sarah Marks (Booking Secretary)
* June Watkins
* Martin Sandercombe (co-opted)
* Elspeth Scott (representative appointed by the PCC)

The role of Vice-Chair was left vacant and the committee will aim to fill that in due course, either from the existing committee or by co-opting another member.

1. Treasurer's Report

Tony Crocker presented the Treasurer’s report for the two years:

* + Despite the impact of covid we have been able to stay solvent and improve the village hall reserves due to the successful application for a number of government grants.
  + Since the last AGM we have largely moved over to online banking, thus greatly simplifying processes for hirers and volunteers.
  + Thanks are due to Martin Sandercombe for auditing the Financial Reports for both years.
  + Thanks are also due to Julian Panton who was Treasurer for most of 2019/20 and provided the accounts for that year for auditing.
  + 2019/20: This was by and large a normal year and shows that without additional fundraising the hire income only covers half of normal running costs and indeed barely pays for the electricity.
  + 2020/21: As the hall was closed throughout, there was no income from hirers. We were able to economise on heating, reducing electricity use by over 50%. We also saved money by agreeing a three year insurance deal.
  + Three covid grants were successfully applied for, allowed us to cover running costs, invest in major fabric repairs and refurbishment, and improve the financial reserves.
  + The Treasurer noted that the committee had deliberated over whether it was right to apply for these grants but had ultimately decided that there was an obligation on the part of trustees to take all possible steps to maintain the village hall in a healthy state for future villagers.
  + In conclusion, at the time of the AGM the hall has circa £3,000 in the current account and £10,000 in savings.

Jenny Morisetti raised a question of whether it was right for the hall to have such sums in the bank or whether it would be better to invest, for example in green energy. The Treasurer replied that there were a number of potential costs on the horizon including the need to replace the heating, and with the covid situation unresolved the committee had agreed it was better to remain prudent at this time. Much of the funding received has been spent with local businesses on repairs and improvements.

Acceptance of the financial report was proposed by the Treasurer, seconded by Tim Ledger, and approved by the meeting unanimously.

1. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman, Martyn Robinson, summarised the work done during the closure period due to covid as follows:

* + Repairs to stabilise the external wall cracks;
  + Repairs to the sub-floor and replacement of the flooring in the main hall;
  + Cure of a long-standing leak and replacement of the flooring in the kitchen;
  + Purchase of a new fridge and microwave for the kitchen;
  + Interior and exterior redecoration;
  + Fitting of new electric blinds;
  + Fitting a ramp to the rear fire escape;
  + Upgrading the fire alarms and emergency lighting to current standards;
  + Cleaning of all the hall chairs;
  + Installation of a number of pictures of local scenes;
  + Repair to the bench which sits outside the village hall.

The Chairman noted that the Hall is now back open for business and fully operational.

He thanked the following people:

* The Treasurer, Vice-chairman and Secretary for all their help with the hall refurbishment arrangements;
* Wendy Robinson for her support for the refurbishment including extensive cleaning to make sure all was ready for re-opening
* The Booking Secretary, Sarah Marks, for her excellent work managing the bookings and hall cleaning rota and dealing with hirer queries;
* Tim and Stephanie Ledger, and the Pop-up Pub team for their work in creating and running this popular new social event for the village.
* Julian Panton for his work as Treasurer in 2019/20 before handing over to Tony.
* Martin Sandercombe for auditing the accounts.
* Steve Veness for refurbishing the Silver Jubilee bench outside the village hall.

The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks for the Chairman for his sterling efforts in successful managing the refurbishment and repairs. The proposal was seconded by June Watkins and approved by the meeting unanimously.

1. Resolution to change the Village Hall Charity Commission Scheme

The Secretary, Steve Veness, introduced the proposal to change the Charity Commission Scheme, in line with the paper circulated in advance of the AGM alongside the Agenda.

The proposal sought to update the Scheme to: a) reflect that none of the village groups specified as providing representation on the committee currently exist and b) clarify that committee members should also be registered as trustees of the village hall.

The Resolution was proposed by the Secretary, seconded by June Watkins and approved by the meeting unanimously.

The Secretary will now lodge the request for the Scheme change with the Charity Commission.

1. Any Other Business
2. June Watkins suggested that as it will be The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 the village hall should arrange something suitable to mark the event. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
3. The Chairman provided an update on the sale of Stour Row church, which continues to proceed well. It is expected that the War Memorial, currently housed at the church will be moved to the village hall in the not too distant future.

Liz Newton is planning a churchyard tidy-up working party on Saturday 16th October from 10:00am.

The meeting ended at 19:50pm.