

## Minutes: Garvald Village Hall Committee (GVHC)

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Attendees: Barrie Ash (BA,) Chairman; Hazel Clark (HC,) Treasurer; Katy Mowat (KM,) Secretary; Caroline McGregor (CM;) Jim Patterson (JP;) Hugo Straker (HS;) Caro Straker (CS;) Ian Marr (IM;) Sarah Ramsay (SR;) Avril Julien (AJ;) Susan Macaldowie (SM;) Lorraine Hay (LH;) Rob Freeland (RF;) Roy Evatt (RE;) Jimmy Thomson (JT;) Tom Mallows (TM;) Eric Easton (EE;) and Laura Young (LY.)

Apologies: Penny Short (PS;) Vicki Short (VS;) Dick Short (DS;) Fiona Wilson (FW;) Phillip White (PW;) Ann White (AW;) Graham Barnes (GB;) and James Mowat (JM.)

### Chairman's Report

- BA welcomed everyone and thanked them for sparing the Hall an hour of their time
- He went on to introduce the Trustees who were present, the members of the management committee and the three current office bearers
- He briefly outlined the GVHT Constitution, and the objectives given to the Hall management committee, namely:
  1. To maintain the building;
  2. To improve the building; and
  3. To make the building available for use
- He went on to illustrate how said objectives had been achieved this year, with work in train to replace the lights with energy saving LEDs, install secondary glazing etc
- Moreover, he talked about the numerous external hires, e.g. weddings, and local ones, with everything from ad hoc table tennis sessions to full blown birthday parties
- All these hires have helped to improve the Hall's financial position, and reduced the need for community fundraisers, although there has been a 70s Night and Jumble Sale this year amongst other things
- GMCC have also been very accommodating, making grants from both the Local Priorities Fund, e.g. for a new fridge freezer, and Crystal Rigg Community Development Fund, and vote of thanks was made
- Thanks were also given to volunteers in the village who have stepped in to organise social events in lieu of the management committee, the Hogmanay Ceilidh in particular
- And a final thank-you was extended to Avril Julien, who has taken over responsibility for cleaning the Hall and liaising with external hirers during weddings

### Treasurer's Report

- HC circulated this year's accounts, which have been kindly audited for us by Gary McGregor
- There was a healthy surplus of £2440.83, which boosted reserves to a comfortable £16,059.09
- She reiterated BA in highlighting the important income generated by regular and one off hirers, and added her thanks to GMCC for their ongoing financial support by way of grants

### Questions

- CS asked how many weddings there had been this year, and how they'd come about? There have been seven, and its largely through word of mouth and/or the village website. Next year, there are already three confirmed and at least five outstanding inquiries.
- TM asked if there were any big/costly projects in the offing? Quotes for secondary glazing have come in at c£5000. We have sufficient reserves to cover this ourselves, but would also be approaching GMCC for grant assistance.
- JT asked whether it was "moral" to apply for GMCC funding when there are sufficient reserves? It was argued that a balance has to be struck between building and using reserves. Moreover, it would be wrong not to apply for external funding if it was available, and it is really up to GMCC to decide if any application is worthwhile.
- JT asked why there are still two bank accounts, i.e. a current account and a 100 Club account? It is deemed right to keep 100 Club funds visible, and use them for "special projects" like stage curtains rather than ordinary operating costs.
- JT asked why the Hall had stepped back from organising some social events, and why they didn't fund volunteers who wanted to run them on the Hall's behalf? There has not been the same need to fundraise, hence fewer events – and there hasn't really been sufficient management committee personal as well. When village volunteers have asked for financial support, e.g. to underwrite the cost of the band at the Hogmanay Ceilidh, it has indeed been forthcoming.

Creation of New Management Committee and Election of Office Bearers

- BA briefly explained how the management committee works, i.e. bi-monthly meetings with any other business dealt with via round robin email
- He also explained that the Hall has “indemnity insurance,” which means no Trustee nor management committee member are personally liable for anything that goes wrong
- He then asked if anybody was willing to join the management committee, and the following raised their hands: EE; SR; RE; RF; JP; SM; LY; HC; and KM.
- The position of Chairman was then elected, with HC and LY proposing and seconding JP
- HC offered to remain as Treasurer, and was re-proposed and seconded by JP and KM respectively
- And KM said she would continue as Secretary, and as re-proposed by HC and seconded by JP
- The position of “bookings secretary” was also discussed, and BA kindly offered to work with AJ to transition to shared responsibility over the next year

#### A Vote of Thanks to Outgoing Chairman

- At the end of the formal business, HC offered a huge vote of thanks to BA for everything he has done for the Hall as both Chairman and Treasurer
- There followed a heartfelt round of applause