

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Walsham le Willows Community Council held in The Memorial Village Hall at 8.00pm on Tuesday 7th June 2016

1. **Those present:** R Barber, I Bartholomew, T Roberts, M Barber, K Stockton, I Campbell, J Bloomfield, F Bloomfield, A Daniels, S White, P Lunkin, K Boardley, J Hall, H Seeley, M Wills, B Wills, J Nielsen, K Rothern
2. **Apologies:** R Belson, J Thomas, A Dunn
3. **Minutes of the meeting held 2nd June 2015:** K Stockton proposed the adoption of the minutes, seconded by I Campbell and agreed unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising:** R Barber pointed out two factual inaccuracies, not known at the last AGM, which had come to light following access to a previously unseen Minute Book for 1951. The site had not been donated but had been purchased on behalf of the village with monies from the Homecoming Fund, at an auction of the estate of the late Dr Poignard. The price was £425.00. The area of the site is 1.33 acres.
5. **Chairman's Report:** R Barber welcomed everyone to the meeting and spoke of a slightly different approach to the report where he would be joined by members of the Committee to speak about their different roles and responsibilities. He then reminded everyone of the organisations responsibilities:
 - To manage the Memorial Village Hall, its garden, grounds, Bowling Green and car park.
 - To promote the social, educational and recreational life of the community as required by our Charitable Status within the National Charities Commission.

He pointed out that the promotion of our work was largely through our monthly magazine, The Walsham Observer. **Jeannie Bloomfield**, the Editor, spoke of the successful introduction of promotional coloured covers for big events. She pleaded with regular contributors to submit their articles well before the advertised deadlines. She thanked **Jan Hall** for printing the magazine, **John Hall** for handling the advertising, **Phyllis Lunkin** for organising the collating, and the team of **25 volunteers** who ensured delivery of the magazine to each and every one of the 597 households.

Ken Stockton reported no diminution in the use of our website www.walsham-le-willows.org. His plea for someone else to take over the role of webmaster was immediately answered with an expression of interest from Kevin Boardley. They will meet to discuss the matter in the near future.

Keith Rothern reviewed the use of the hall by hirers noting that wedding receptions and family parties were increasing. Income of over £7,000 was encouraging.

The Chair reported that **Joan Freeborn**, who with her late husband Ray, created the garden, had relinquished the responsibility for the regular upkeep of this beautiful and tranquil space. Ed Batrum had taken on the task of mowing the garden and grounds on a regular basis and Kevin Boardley had offered to keep an eye on plantings, prunings and replacements.

The Post Office and the Coffee Shop continue to run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. There are well over twenty volunteers who bake cakes and run the Coffee Shop, creating over £2,500 per year towards further building improvements.

We value our contribution to, and support for, the performing arts in Walsham and **Maggie Barber** reviewed the visit of Eastern Angles Touring Theatre from the Sir John Mills Theatre in Ipswich. She spoke of the role of Creative Arts East in sponsoring small performing groups to perform high quality shows from both the Edinburgh, and Brighton, Fringe and bringing them to rural locations like ours. Of particular interest is the offer of a Mystery Show suitable for family groups of all ages and booked for October 15th.

Judith Thomas' contribution is considerable. Not only does she run classes for youngsters on Thursdays, but our hall is now a registered centre for LAMDA examinations – 21 distinctions gained in the April entries. Her productions either in the hall or in Alec Russell's garden offer these young students live performance experience alongside more senior members of Judith's Walsham Concert Party.

Finally **John Hubbard** has offered to organise a performance of Country, Blues and Folk music in the hall towards the end of 2017.

Mike Wills spoke of the Fundraising Group's commitment to running the digital cinema screenings through the autumn and winter, together with the Village Quiz. Rebooking the Honington Band was proving elusive. To commemorate our community's deep involvement in the First World War, 100 years ago, **Ian Bartholomew** spoke of the Community Council's sponsorship of an artistic collaboration between local artist **Helen Dougall and Walsham Schoolchildren**. We hope to have an unveiling of the finished work in the Memorial Hall around Armistice Day later this year.

Helen Seeley spoke of the problems now being experienced in producing a **Neighbourhood Watch** report for The Observer due to funding cuts and lack of police personnel to provide material in an accessible form. We will discuss this at our July meeting.

Representatives of the 4 Statutory Organizations on our Committee spoke of the value of the close collaboration which this allowed between our several groups.

Chair reported that we are making slow but steady progress in gathering indicative prices for work to renew the lighting and heating in the main hall together with the replacement of 3 Crittal windows and the insulation and relining of ceiling and walls to create a much cosier and energy efficient venue.

In conclusion **Rob Barber** thanked the whole Committee for their hard work across such a variety of matters and was sorry that Secretary Judith Thomas' workload prevented her from making a regular attendance. He personally thanked Maggie Barber for all the support she gives with emails, typing and the making of posters and tickets for events, not to mention her expertise with the sale of raffle tickets and said that without her, he wouldn't have been able to deal with all aspects required of the Chair.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** I Bartholomew reported end of year balances of £4,541.42 for Community Council and £29,038.47 for the Memorial Village Hall and led those present through the details clearly summarised in the accompanying notes which will be available for detailed scrutiny on our website. He was warmly thanked for the reassuring totals and for the clarity and detail of his presentation.
7. **Election of Honorary Officers:** All were elected unopposed.
Chair – Rob Barber (Prop I Campbell, seconded by I Bartholomew)
Vice Chair – Jeannie Bloomfield (Prop B Wills, seconded by M Barber)
Treasurer – Ian Bartholomew (Prop R Barber, seconded by J Bloomfield)
Secretary – Maggie Barber (Prop I Campbell, seconded by M Wills)
8. **Acceptance of Representatives from four Statutory Organisations:**
Sports Club – Ian Campbell
Women's Institute – Barbara Wills
Parochial Church Council – Jean Nielsen
Parish Council – Trevor Roberts
9. **Election of Trustees and Committee:**
 - **Election of Trustees:** Ian Campbell and Maggie Barber were elected to replace Joan Freeborn and Theresa Parrin, both of whom had resigned prior to the AGM.
 - **Election of Committee:** The Committee consists of 4 Honorary Officers, 4 Statutory Representatives as detailed above, together with Shirley White, Kevin Boardley, Helen Seeley, Ken Stockton, Richard Belson, Judith Thomas and Keith Rothern.
10. **Public Open Forum:** Members felt all matters had been well discussed and in the absence of any new issues other than a work party to undertake some internal decoration, the Chair thanked everyone warmly for their participation and invited them to share some refreshment.
The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.