

## Draft Minutes of Walsham le Willows Community Council AGM, 8.06.2017

1. **Those present:** B Wills, M Wills, K Stockton, I Bartholomew, R Barber, M Barber, K Rotheron, J Bloomfield, F Bloomfield, J Nielsen, E Wade, I Campbell, R Hubbard, J Hubbard, M Mansfield, J Clark, T Roberts, J Newell, P Newell.
2. **Apologies:** S White, R Belson, J Thomas.
3. **Adoption of Minutes of AGM held on 7.06.2016:** Proposed by I Campbell, seconded J Bloomfield and agreed unanimously.
4. **Matters Arising:** None
5. **Chairman's Report:** A copy is attached
6. **Treasurer's Report:** I Bartholomew presented the accounts for Community Council and the MVH. In presenting the Community Council accounts he noted that the Christmas Fayre income was up slightly on the previous year; the Eastern Angles production had generated net profits of £343; Observer advertising continued to hold up well with over £4,000 being received in the year; however, Observer donations of £189 were down on the previous year; payments of £1,068 were made following the successful completion of the Memorial Wall Hanging Project; Observer costs of £3,075 were significantly up reflecting the higher running costs of the aging printer and a large purchase of paper and card. Balance carried forward is £3,999.25

In the MVH accounts he noted that recycling income declined marginally; Coffee Shop continued to make a significant contribution to funds with an income of £2,713; various successful fundraising events in the course of the year generated net funds of £2,331; Gift Aid reclaimed from HMRC amounted to £233; Grant funding totalled £5,800 and Hiring income held up well at £7,229. Ian also reminded us that, by mutual agreement, The Memorial Hall Restoration Committee was dissolved part way through the year primarily due to the success and growth of many other fundraising activities within the community. This committee raised just over £24,000 towards our various building improvement projects over the past ten years. Our heaviest expenditure item was electricity where costs nearly doubled although this figure was distorted by the timing of bills and the move to a new fixed tariff with monthly direct debits. Usage was up again year on year underlining the need to press on with our energy efficiency plans. Overall surplus funds of £11,623 were generated during the year and at the year end our building fund stood at £39,136.

Ian was thanked for his comprehensive statements and a proposal was made to adopt the accounts, proposed by T Roberts, seconded by M Mansfield and agreed unanimously.

7. **Election of Honorary Officers:**
  - **Chair** – R Barber was proposed by I Bartholomew, seconded by I Campbell, agreed unanimously.
  - **Treasurer** – I Bartholomew was proposed by M Wills, seconded by J Clark, agreed unanimously.
  - **Secretary** – M Barber was proposed by R Hubbard, seconded by J Bloomfield, agreed unanimously.
8. **Acceptance of Representatives from 4 Statutory Organisations**
  - **Sports Club** – S White
  - **Parochial Church Council** – J Nielsen
  - **Women's Institute** – B Wills
  - **Parish Council** – T Roberts

Acceptance of these members was proposed by F Bloomfield, seconded by J Hubbard and agreed unanimously.
9. **Election of Committee**

The following members of the meeting agreed to join the committee - K Rothern, J Bloomfield, F Bloomfield, E Wade, I Campbell, R Hubbard, J Hubbard, M Mansfield and J Clark.

#### **10. Public Open Forum**

- **The Observer** – I Campbell expressed the feelings of the meeting when he said that he only had positive thoughts about the Observer and paid tribute to the Editor.
- **Memorial Village Hall & Grounds** – It was agreed to leave one third of the grassy area to grow as a meadow whilst leaving sufficient space for the erection of marquees as needed. It was suggested that we scatter wild flower seeds. A suggestion that we extend car parking to the grassy areas was not accepted on the grounds of loss of amenity which would be too great a cost! Completion of the telephone kiosk project was noted.
- **Activities & Fundraising** – Tour of Britain Cycle Race on 8<sup>th</sup> September – Pippa Newell, Jill Newell, Ian Bartholomew, a School representative and a Sports Club representative would examine how the event could be marked.
- **Phase 4 Building Project** – It was noted that this would start on 25<sup>th</sup> September and that plans were being drawn up to improve the lobby entrance. E Wade suggested that we consider the provision of coat hooks.
- **Phase 5 Building Project** – Chair outlined the general plan for the next stage of improvements to the kitchen/bar facilities; we should explore ideas now while Phase 4 is still ongoing. E Wade has ideas; R Barber will provide a base plan and invite interested parties to contribute.

#### **11. Conclusion and Refreshments**

During this time it was suggested that we amend the constitution to include a wider list of statutory organisations to be represented on the committee.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Why is it that those who have been most involved in the running of an organisation are not thanked until the conclusion of the annual report? Why are they left as a sort of afterthought to the main event, a shared scrap at the end!

Let me see if I can start a trend by thanking now, at the beginning, those who are central to the running of the Community Council and without whom nothing, and I mean nothing, would ever happen.

Ian Bartholomew is not only a remarkable and very professional treasurer who produces meticulous accounts which are easy to comprehend and to compare with the previous year's performance, but he brings a sense of humour and a proper sense of business to all our deliberations without which we could so easily become lax, laissez-faire, and ineffective: the recent appointment of two new trustees, Maggie Barber and Ian Campbell, and the validation of new cheque signatories make the point, together with the renewal of licences. He is also our sound and film engineer.

Maggie Barber is a most efficient secretary, brilliant at advertising, programming and ticketing our events with an unnerving ability to sell ice creams to Eskimos or, in our case, raffle tickets to punters as we try to raise further funds to modernise the Memorial Village Hall.

Keith Rothern brings the rigorous discipline of his day job for Rodwell Bayne to managing the complex daily needs of the many different hirers of the hall, ensuring that maintenance and running repairs are dealt with and issues of Health and Safety adhered to thoroughly.

Jeannie Bloomfield is tireless in her pursuit to bring the routine and sometimes the drama of village life to our doors every month. She has the help of husband Fred and Jan Hall as printers of her every word, together with a team of nearly twenty volunteer collators. Jan's husband John assembles the all important advertisers whose

fees help to pay the costs of producing The Walsham Observer. And she can quickly turn her hand to refreshments where there is a need – this evening for example.

Judith Thomas hires the hall most Thursdays to run her dance, speech and drama classes for our youngsters of 4 – 18 which lead to stage productions in aid of village hall funds and a venue for highly successful twice yearly examinations of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, LAMDA qualifications which contribute to GCSE results and whose examiners have international accreditation.

We are most grateful to Shirley White for organising the monthly Community Lunch and for being a central figure in the group of over 20 volunteers who bake for and run the twice weekly Coffee Shop alongside the Satellite Post Office; Kevin Boardley for taking responsibility for refreshing our village website; Richard Belson for bringing in Eastern Angles Touring Theatre; Maggie Barber for liaising with Creative Arts East to bring their sponsored productions to Walsham; Mick Mansfield and Jaclyn Clark for their readiness to help in any way with our programme of events and helping us achieve an excellent place in the Village Quiz; Ralph and Janet Hubbard for their enthusiasm to run new events; Jean Nielsen, Barbara Wills, Trevor Roberts and Ian Campbell for their always pertinent insights from the viewpoint of the other organisations which they represent on our committee.

Non Committee members play their part too - Gordon and Kathy who host our monthly meetings in The Six Bells; Ed Batram in maintaining the tidiness of our grounds; Nic Barber Architects for drawing up plans and managing the current building project pro bono, free of charge; Debbie and Frank Watson for their central role on Quiz Nights and Digital Cinema screenings; Mark Donald for painting the iconic telephone kiosk purchased from BT for £1, and Richard Pratt for moving the kiosk to its new position beside the main entrance to the hall and for providing a defibrillator to be housed in the kiosk at his own expense.

One name is missing from this roster; Ken Stockton has resigned from the Committee after many years excellent work. His contributions were always sharp and incisive, his manner ever courteous and gentlemanly. He promoted Neighbourhood Watch from the beginning and was exceedingly generous in setting up and managing the village website. Like me, he is a Grumpy Old Man and won't thank me for noting his continuing role as a baker and Coffee Shop volunteer together with his assistance in the delivery of Observers to the 22 deliverers who cover door to door handovers to 594 households. Ken, we are most grateful for who you are and what you are still within our organisation and I now ask Jeannie to offer you our gift and thanks for all you do on behalf of this village.

To sum up, I will remind you that:-

1. We are responsible for and manage a 1.3 acre piece of real estate on behalf of the village.
2. We maintain and run the MVH at an annual cost of about £10,000 and are currently preparing to close the building on September 25<sup>th</sup> to enable a further £58,000 of improvements to be carried out by Doug Mead, Insulation and Building Contractor, under Phase 4 of a twenty year project.
3. We hire the building out for social, educational, recreational and club events including family parties, funeral wakes, and wedding receptions.
4. We fundraise and source matching funds from outside the village community to facilitate further modernisation of the building, including the extension of secure storage facilities for performance costumes and toddler play equipment.
5. We publish and deliver the Walsham Observer free of charge to all 594 households in order to keep the community informed of all that happens here in Walsham.

For what has been achieved, I thank you all, where we have failed, I ask for your understanding.

Rob Barber, Chair & Trustee