

MINUTES OF THE MILTON VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD 19TH AUGUST 2021

(CHARITY NUMBER: 1089780)

Those Present:-

Committee Members

Carl Avery (Chairman), Gary Steel (Treasurer), Charlotte Gormley (Secretary), Elaine Newbold (Bookings Secretary), Mandy Avery, Duncan Hogg, Dawn Bales, Sue White, Denise Abbott, Steve Gormley, Sarah Hardman-Charles (representing Alison Hardman-Charles)

General Audience

John & Lynne Hoptroft, John & Lynne Clay, Helen Shepherd, Sue Goodwin, Stella Salt, Steve Bales, Liz & Howard Wibberley, Michelle & Gordon Way, Richard Fluck, Helen & Steve Jackson

The meeting started at 7.30 pm.

1) **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME & APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and said that it was fantastic to see so much attendance from the village. said that apologies had been received from Polly Faulkner, Adam Hough, Alison Hardman-Charles and Sarah Hogg.

2) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's report was circulated to the Committee Members present. In précis, it said that, due to Covid, it essentially covered the last two years. During this time, the Committee had navigated through the pandemic restrictions. Carl said that he had taken advice from Kyran Farrell, the Chairman of Repton Village Hall, and - due to the size and space limitations of Milton hall - the decision had been taken to limit the hall's use to all except the Pathways group (where only 2-3 people used the hall at any one time). Consequently, funding had been received from the Government because of the lack of use of the hall. He went on to say that he was delighted that new and enthusiastic members from the village had come forward to join the Committee.

Carl stated that having been Chairman for 8 years, he now wanted to step down from the role of Chairman. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as Chairman, but felt that the time had come for him to hand over to another. He stated that a lot of funding had been raised during his time as Chairman to improve the hall and, consequently, he felt that he was leaving both the hall, and Committee, in a very strong position.

On behalf of the Committee, Denise gave her thanks to Carl, for all his hard-work and commitment over the years, and a round of applause was given.

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Gary circulated a copy of the Treasurer's Report to the Committee. He went on to say that substantial grants (circa £27K) had been received throughout the period of the pandemic, leaving the finances in a very healthy position of approximately £52K. He had thought of stepping down as Treasurer, but had decided to stay on until the end of the year. He asked if any Committee members had any questions with regard to the Treasurer's Report? Elaine raised a concern about the Pathways invoice: Gary clarified that this was monies which had been received, and not unpaid monies as Elaine had initially worried. Steve asked on what basis the grants had been made and if they came with any parameters? Gary clarified that the monies had been donated to help the hall stay viable and were to be spent on what the Committee wished. Carl gave thanks to Gary for his work and also to Sue Goodwin for her help and guidance. Gary said that it was possible that other funding in the form of grants might be received.

4) **BOOKINGS**

The Bookings Secretary, Elaine, said that the current and regular bookings consisted of:-

Krav Maga: held on Mondays

Lunch Club: held on Thursdays

Pathways: held Monday, Thursday, Friday

With the exception of those mentioned, no other regular hirers had returned. Carl asked if it was known if previous regulars were intending to return? Elaine said that she wasn't sure but believed that the size of the hall could be a limiting factor. Steve asked if booking priority was given to village residents? Mandy said that they ought to be given priority, and Elaine added that there was a discount given to villagers. Mandy added that it was for the Bookings Secretary to make the decision in the event of a bookings clash and that, if in doubt, she could consult the Committee. Elaine asked if an advert should be put in the village magazine and it was agreed that it should.

Elaine also proposed changing the website address, suggesting a dedicated 'village hall' website, as opposed to 'Milton Matters'. It was suggested that Elaine liaised with Sue Goodwin regarding the merits/disadvantages of this.

Action: Elaine to liaise with Sue Goodwin

5) **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Carl again reiterated that he wished to step down from the position of Chairman and that his replacement was sought from the existing Committee members. He asked if anyone wished to take on the position?. As this was met with silence, Charlotte asked if he could explain the duties of the Chairman. Carl said that the Chairman's role was to oversee all Committee meetings and run through the agenda in reasonable time. He also said that the Chairman's role was to ensure that things

happened as agreed, and to delegate to the Committee accordingly. Charlotte asked what would happen if nobody came forward to take on the position?

Gary proposed Denise for Chairman but Denise duly replied that she would be prepared to take on the role of Treasurer next year, when Gary intended to step down, so would not be prepared to take on the role of Chairman. Denise also suggested that she thought it was only fair that a Chairman was selected from someone who had some experience of serving on the Committee, ie someone who already had some experience.

Richard Fluck asked if Carl would be prepared to act as a guide to whoever took on this position as Chairman, and Carl said that he would.

Gary asked Steve if he would consider the position, but Steve said that, due to work commitments, he could not do so at this time.

Gary proposed Mandy. Mandy said that she would accept the position since no one else was prepared to take it on. Denise seconded this proposal.

Charlotte agreed to stay on in the role of Secretary. Gary reiterated that he was happy to continue until the end of the year. Elaine agreed to continue as Bookings Secretary, with help as required.

General Committee Members

Carl asked if those general committee members present wished to remain on the committee. Duncan, Steve and Denise said that they did.

Sarah said that Alison wished to remain a Committee member also. Duncan said that Sarah also wished to remain a Committee member.

Charlotte expressed Polly's wish to remain on the Committee.

Carl asked if Adam Hough wished to remain on the Committee, but this was not known.

Carl asked those in the audience if anyone wished to join the Committee, and Helen Shepherd said that she did. Helen was duly invited to join.

Action: Charlotte to ask Adam Hough if he wished to remain on the Committee

6) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Steve commented that the Village Hall was currently cash rich and asked if anything had been identified on which to spend some of this money? Duncan said that the heating/air conditioning was in need of attention/repair. Mandy said that she would like to see some of the money spent on a village party. It was decided that these items should be discussed at the Committee meeting.

Action: Charlotte to table 'Village Party' and 'Hall Improvements' as agenda items at the next meeting.

Richard commented on the Village Hall's lack of car-parking and use of open space, and suggested that it would be a good idea to invest in some dedicated land for the hall's/village use. Gary agreed and said that this had been suggested before, and that they had approached the Church Commission some years ago to rent/purchase the orchard opposite. However, the Church Commission had proved very difficult to deal with and this was unsuccessful.

It was noted that David Burrows from Mill Farm currently rented several pieces of land from the Church Commission and had helped the village hall on many previous occasions by allowing this land to be used for parking. Richard asked if we could explore the possibility of renting/purchasing this land?

Action: Mandy to talk to David Burrows regarding this suggestion.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm