

# **Minutes of HPFRG AGM 13/12/21**

*Meeting held via Zoom*

**Present** - Nick Baker, Shirley Sainsbury, Louise Chicken, Harry Purnell, Maggie Prettyman, Robin Slatter, Viv Tallowin, Chris Watkins, Julie Wones, Eilish Rothney.

**Apologies** - Claire Madden, Harvey Gibbons, Gemma Scarborough, Stewart Chinman.

**Parishioners** - Dinah Slatter, Jo Belsten, David Belsten, Richard Booton, Jan Dedman,

**Minutes of 2020 AGM** - Approved as a true record.

**Chairman's Report** - Attached

**Treasurer's Report** - Attached

**Events Report** - Attached

## **Questions**

David Belsten (DB) asked about the Trust's financial contribution to the community garden. MP explained that the Trust is to underwrite the garden's initial costs in order to get it started but the aim is for the project should be self sustaining with the help of grant funding.

DB asked whether the establishment of the garden will reduce the Trust's grass cutting costs. NB explained that the layout of the garden is such that some grass cutting will still be required.

DB asked about the AGM being held in December rather than September. NB stated that the intention is to return to a date in September as soon as is practicable.

Jo Belsten (JB) asked that in future the date of HPFRG meetings be set to avoid parish council meetings. NB apologised for this oversight.

## **Response to correspondence received**

**Q** Why are Trust meeting minutes not all on the website?

**A** This has been done.

**Q** Why are the Trustees not seeking new Trustees?

**A** The required notices have been posted.

DB pointed out that the AGM is not in the parish newsletter.

**Q** Some newcomers to the village do not seem to understand the function of the Barn

**A** There is a website which makes clear the Barn's function. Events are advertised. Given that we are in a pandemic, numbers attending Barn events are remarkably high.

**Q** Why did the cinema not reopen in the summer?

**A** The cinema does not run in August and by September the covid situation had deteriorated. Two of the volunteers who run the cinema are clinically vulnerable and the Trustees took a precautionary view.

**Q** Why has an air conditioning unit not been installed?

**A** An air flow system is expensive. There are plans to install one as part of a wider maintenance programme.

DB enquired as to the cost. NB replied that quotes are being sought.

**Q** Why are the Trustees asking for groups wishing to put on events for more than 60 people to provide evidence of liability insurance?

**A** In putting in place safety measures which follow HSE guidelines, the Trustees have acted prudently and responsibly. Any user wishing to step outside those measures must carry that liability themselves

Following a question from JB there was a discussion about Trustees' liability. NB said that the question of CIC cover may be reviewed.

DB questioned why insurance was necessary for groups larger than 60 when it was not necessary before covid. NB pointed out that the pandemic has added an extra dimension to Trustees' responsibilities. Our understanding of public safety has changed and the Barn's risk assessment reflects this.

MP pointed out that it has always been the case that an organiser running a class, such as Zumba or Pilates for which an entry charge is made, has always had to provide their own insurance.

DB asked why with other venues operating at full capacity, the Barn cannot do the same. NB replied that the risk assessment is in place so that Barn users can attend safely. MP added that aside from legal liability the Barn must protect against reputational damage

JB said that the risk assessment placed on the website was unclear. NB accepted that there were delays in posting the new risk assessment, caused largely by the difficulty in keeping up with and interpreting official guidelines.

**APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES** - The following have been nominated by designated village organisations:

Parish Council - Gemma Scarborough  
Hickling School – Julie Wones  
Hickling Football Club – Louise Chicken

The following were elected as follows –

Nick Baker – Elected – 2 Abstentions  
Maggie Prettyman – Elected – 1 Abstention  
Harry Purnell – Elected  
Claire Madden – Elected

The trustees will co-opt other committee members at the next meeting.

The Chair ended the meeting by thanking those attending and wishing all a Happy Christmas

There were no further business and the meeting closed at 20:24