



DVHA - the Association for Dorset Village Halls

Minutes of the tenth Annual General Meeting

held on 14 May 2016 at Okeford Fitzpaine Village Hall, DT11 0RE

Present

15 Representatives from 13 member halls were present + 6 guests and speakers. Lists of attendees and apologies available on request.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Our Chairman, Mike Burt (MB), welcomed those present to Okeford Fitzpaine Village Hall. He said it was nice to see everyone especially the new members. MB introduced the members of the Executive and speakers.

Baird Oldrey, our previous chairman, sadly died during the year. He is much missed by the Executive and Members. MB asked for a minute's silence to remember Baird.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes were emailed in advance and copies were available on the website. Caroline Tory (CT) proposed and Annette Newman (AN) seconded that they be agreed. Agreed unanimously and signed.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's report - Mike Burt

Good morning everyone welcome to Okeford Fitzpaine once again, for the 2017 AGM.

Whilst this is the second year we have used this venue, it will be our intention in future to hold the AGM at other locations around the county in order to give members the opportunity to see other halls and to share the distance members have to travel.

Although we are operating with a small committee at the moment, hard work by them has begun to show results. Thanks to Steve and Mary, the committee is getting to grips with the computer system and improving our understanding of the Website. This is enabling us to communicate in a more efficient way, and it is our intention to send out more newsletters to keep members up to date.

At the present time the membership fee is set at £10 which we feel is good value for money, we would like to recruit all halls in Dorset in order to give us more influence with the authorities and a better understanding of problems facing halls in these times of spending cuts.

The Committee has been considering discussion and networking sessions, and maybe speakers, on topical items at other times during the year, possibly of an evening, and your views on this would be welcome.

Your feedback is essential if we are to provide you the members with the services you require, an email, to myself or Mary is all that is required to enable the committee to discuss how we can better serve you the membership.

Many thanks for attending today. I am sure the two speakers after the AGM will provide you with information that will help you in the running of your Halls.

5. Secretary's report

Mary Mathers (MM) echoed MBs thanks to the other members of the committee.

6. Treasurer's report

The accounts for the year 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, prepared by the Treasurer John Clode (JC) were circulated. (Copy attached.) A major expense was the cost of re-instating the domain name.

7. Organisation & Subscriptions

The number of members for the 2016-17 year has increased to 28 and several new halls have already joined this year.

Steve Hawker (SH) said that he felt the current £10 membership fee was good. CT agreed and was willing to promote the DVHA to other halls in her area. SH said that emails have been sent to all halls for which we have contact details. AN proposed that each hall encourage a neighbouring hall to join and said she was willing to find contacts for halls that we don't have contacts for.

Several insurance companies give discount to Members of the DVHA.

Extra money could be used in future to redevelop the website.

SH was asked about traffic to the website. He responded that this is not a useful measure as it may well be generated by robots. The dorsethalls.net website now comes up as the first entry on a Google search for halls.

8. Reports

National Village Halls Forum – now National Village and Community Halls Network

MM reported that the National Village Halls Forum (NVHF) has now been wound down and 'morphed' into the National Village and Community Halls Network (NVHN), hosted by ACRE. Lois Rose (LR) and MM have met Oliver Letwin twice to discuss his support for village halls including the possible setting up of a and APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group of MPs).

Tony Horry responded to a question that village halls are not obliged to provide a venue for a polling station. Crayston Lee (CL) said that his hall, Charlton Down, is now a polling station.

DCA

Alex Picot sent apologies on behalf of DCA.

LR commented that there are now no full-time Village Halls Advisors (VHAs) all over the country. VHAs advise on funding, legal, licencing etc. and funding is needed to provide this service. AN commented that the most useful service was the newsletter that LR circulated. It's now very piecemeal. MM reported that DCA is offering a new membership scheme – free basic membership (email contact), £75 + VAT for some services and discounts.

Dorsethalls.net website

Reported above

9. Members' Current Issues

CL queried why he had not received DVHA communications. MM responded that they would have been sent to the nominated hall representative.

10. Election of Officers

The following 4 committee members were nominated

Chairman: Mike Burt proposed Caroline Tory, Seconded Barry Goringe

Secretary: Mary Mathers proposed Caroline Tory, Seconded Crayston Lee

Treasurer: John Clode proposed Morarg Davenport, Seconded Richard Hill

Committee member: Steve Hawker proposed Barry Goringe, Seconded Mike Burt

Agreed unanimously.

There were no volunteers for the role of Membership Secretary.

11. Any Other Business

None

12. Solar Power & Renewable Energy

Antony McCarthy of Dorset Energy Solutions gave a talk on the options and economics of renewable energy solutions for village halls. Here is a brief summary of his main pointers.

The main motivation for installation of a renewable energy system is to help keep costs down. The main options for retro-fit are solar power, air source heat pumps and biomass.

It is important to use an MCS accredited company in order to claim the FIT (Feed in Tariff) or Renewable Heat Incentive.

LED lighting saves money.

Anthony is willing to discuss options with any member hall with no obligations. For more information on solutions and the services they offer visit their website

www.dorsetenergysolutions.co.uk

13. Licensing laws – the legislation as it applies to community venues

Kathryn Miller, the Licensing Offices for West Dorset District Council (also covering Weymouth & Portland and North Dorset)

A licence is required for all sales of alcohol. Changes to the licensing legislation in 2009 meant that the management committee of a community venue could fulfil the role of the Designated Premises Supervisor (rather than a nominated person).

If the hall is hired privately, it is important to make them aware of the conditions of the licence.

If the committee is not certain that they wish hirers to operate under their licence, a TEN (Temporary Event Notice) is an alternative. Each venue is permitted 15 per year.

In 2015 the regulated entertainment licence (play & films, recorded or live) was changed. Events for less than 500 attendees between 8am and 11pm do not need a licence. For unamplified music, there is no limit. The annual fee for a licence is £70.

This was followed by an excellent buffet lunch prepared by Sue Oldrey helped by Diane Burt.

Mary Mathers
Secretary, Dorset Village Halls Association