



DVHA - the Association for Dorset Village Halls

Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting

Held on 12 May 2018 at Upton Community Centre, Poole Rd, Upton, Poole, BH16 5JA

Present: 24 Representatives from 15 member halls were present + 3 guests and speakers. Lists of attendees and apologies available on request.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Lynn Wright of Upton Community Centre welcomed those present to their Hall. Mike Burt (MB) thanked Upton Community Centre for hosting the AGM and waiving the charge. MB introduced the members of the Executive and speakers.

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

MB thanked the committee for their support after he had a heart operation last July.

He had information on Low Carbon Dorset who offer free technical advice and funding of 40% towards cost of extra low carbon measures. Annette Newman (AN) asked about stage lights when old style lightbulbs are phased out in 2020.

Membership has improved but we need more halls to join.

Steve Hawker (SH) is still looking at how to update the website and database.

5. Secretary's report

Mary Mathers (MM) reported that in the last year DVHA had been very busy and had issued 5 newsletters and also held an extra event.

6. Treasurer's report

The accounts for the year 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, prepared by the Treasurer John Clode (JC) were circulated. (Copy attached.) Debbie Weller (DW) proposed and Richard Hill (RH) seconded that they be accepted - approved unanimously.

7. Organisation & Subscriptions

The number of members for the 2017-18 year has already reached 32

The committee propose maintaining the membership subscription at £10. Caroline Tory said she thought that the £10 subscription was good value. Crayston Lee (CL) asked what would be done

with the build-up of funds. SH said that the website is currently stuck on an old version of Drupal. Even a professional company that he has spoken to were not prepared to upgrade it and recommended redeveloping the site. This will cost money. CL said that Hallmaster were having problems with migration and GDPR.

8. Election of Officers

The following 4 committee members were nominated en block

Chairman: Mike Burt

Secretary: Mary Mathers

Treasurer: John Clode

Committee member: Steve Hawker

Proposed Caroline Tory, Seconded Debbie Weller, Agreed unanimously.

There were no volunteers for the role of Membership Secretary.

9. Any Other Business

None

10. Upton & the Community Centre

Lynn Wright gave a fascinating talk on the history of Upton and the creation of the Community Centre. The original hall was on the site with the old church and school. It was used by lots of groups. The village hall was burnt down in 1983 and the cost of rebuilding was £550,000.

In 2008 a health and safety report meant that many activities were no longer possible. A further grant of £348,000 was necessary to bring the hall back into use.

The complicated legal structure of the hall ownership and maintenance was explained by Graham Hall & Ron Burns. LUCA (Lytchett & Upton Community Association), formed in 1970's to organise events etc, became reduced to being the hall management committee. LUCA is a tenant leasing the hall from the Church of England Diocese on a full repairing lease so the cost of maintenance including the structure falls on the committee which is not sustainable. They are in negotiation with the Church of England to change this.

11. Fire Safety and Health & Safety

Bobby Gray of Fire Compliance and Safety (Bournemouth) Ltd. gave a riveting presentation on the risks of fire including some thought provoking video reporting from the Grenfell fire where 70 people died. With that tragedy still on everyone's minds, he explained that there were multiple causes. If in the end someone is convicted of corporate manslaughter, the penalty is 12 years imprisonment.

Every establishment must appoint a named responsible person who has carried out a fire risk assessment. The responsible person must be certificated with written responsibilities. A fire marshal is a point of contact, a fire warden makes sure people are out of the building.

This was followed by an excellent buffet lunch prepared by Sue Oldrey helped by Lynn Wright, Diane Burt and other members from Upton Community Centre.

Mary Mathers
Secretary, Dorset Village Halls Association