



## **DVHA - the Association for Dorset Village Halls**

Minutes of the twelfth Annual General Meeting

Held on 11 May 2019 at Litton and Thorners Community Hall,

School Lane, Litton Cheney, Dorchester DT2 9AU

Present: 25 Representatives from 12 member halls and one non-member hall were present + 3 guests and 1 speaker. Lists of attendees and apologies available on request.

- **Welcome & Introductions**

Mike Burt (MB) welcomed delegates to the west of the county and thanked Litton and Thorners Community Hall for hosting the AGM and waiving the charge. The chairman Ron Davidson is on hand to tell us more and answer any questions you may have.

- **Minutes of the previous AGM**

Minutes were posted on the website in advance and copies were available at the door. Agreed unanimously and signed.

- **Matters arising**

None

- **Chairman's report - Mike Burt**

Our DVHA Committee has worked hard to improve what we have to offer, Many thanks to Steve Hawker and Mary Mathers for their efforts in producing and distributing the newsletters. And special thanks to our treasurer John Clode for his work. All three of them work together to keep track of our membership and keep our records up to date.

As with many organisations volunteers are increasingly difficult to find, but as you know, halls do not look after themselves they need people to keep them running.

I consider the DVHA as an organisation which can help those people to do that. There are very few counties that still have full-time Village Hall advisers so we need to come together and help one another, I therefore ask if any of you could find the time to join our committee your help will be much appreciated don't be shy put yourself forward if you feel you can help.

Steve and Mary are still working on gathering together the information needed for us to investigate changing the website format if you have any ideas please

communicate them to Steve or Mary.

If you have any thoughts on subjects that you would like to discuss then again communicate to us and we will look at how best to arrange that.

I hope you enjoy today and if you have any thoughts on what you would like to see at our AGM's then please pass them on to us.

- **Secretary's report**

Mary Mathers (MM) reported that in the last year the DVHA committee had met 6 times. She reported that a new Community Grant had just been launched and will be administered by DCA.

At the moment ACRE has no resource to progress Hallmark. As DCA does not support it, DVHA are unable to run assessments.

- **Treasurer's report**

The accounts for the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, prepared by the Treasurer John Clode (JC) were circulated. (Copy attached.) Richard Hill (RH) asked why the membership had increased but the membership income dropped. JC explained that the accounts are monies actually received in the financial year whereas the number of members relate to the membership year that they had paid for. JC said that the accumulating balance was saving for a rewrite of the website. RH asked how much this would cost. SH said that this would depend on the method chosen and could possibly be done as a phased development. Annette Newman (AN) suggested using a WhatsApp group.

JC announced that he had been treasurer for 10 years and will be stepping down next year unless anyone wished to take over sooner. He asked for volunteers.

- **Organisation & Subscriptions**

The number of members for the 2018-19 year reached 67. This year it has already reached 22.

Several halls said that the renewal notice in the newsletters was easily overlooked. It was agreed that all existing members be sent an invoice to request renewal. It was agreed to maintain the membership subscription at £10. Crayston Lee (CL) said that paying by BACS was the best method and this should be highlighted.

- **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 Richard Hill, Seconded John Firrell, Agreed unanimously.

- **Any Other Business**

None

- **Low Carbon Dorset**

Erik Blakely gave a thought provoking presentation on the effects of climate change and the measures open to individuals and communities to mitigate the effect. Low Carbon Dorset offer free advice and can provide grants towards carbon reduction schemes. The full presentation is available to members on the DVHA website [dorsethalls.net/](http://dorsethalls.net/) and more details can be found on their website [www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk). There was a lively discussion following.

- **Hall Security**

Steve Hawker gave a rundown of the types of security available to halls from simple to sophisticated. Many halls are now offering wifi to their hirers. SH outlined the potential risk to halls of misuse or overuse and gave examples of the systems to control access.

- **Litton & Thorners Community Hall**

Wendy and John Firrell gave a short history of the hall which was developed as a joint venture with the neighbouring primary school and opened in 2009. The school has priority access on weekday days while the community has the hall in the evenings and weekends. Following this the members of their committee gave a guided tour round the building looking at some of the ingenious features that they have incorporated.

This was followed by an excellent buffet lunch prepared by Cathy and Jackie.

Mary Mathers  
Secretary, Dorset Village Halls Association