



DVHA - the Association for Dorset Village Halls

Minutes of the thirteenth Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 11 September 2021

at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall, High St, Lytchett Matravers,

Poole BH16 6DD

Present: 17 Representatives from 10 member halls were present. Lists of attendees and apologies available on request.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Mike Burt (MB) welcomed delegates and thanked Lytchett Matravers VH for hosting the AGM and waiving the charge.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Minutes were posted on the website in advance and copies were available at the door. Proposed by Richard Hill (RH), seconded by Annette Newman (AN). Agreed unanimously and signed.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's report - Mike Burt (circulated in advance)

"It is difficult to think that our last AGM was 2 years ago at Litton and Thorners Community Hall.

Much has happened since then including the Covid 19 Pandemic. Many Halls have had to close resulting in a loss of income as well as the loss of community benefit from less activity and the loss of contact with other residents.

During the last two years the DVHA committee has worked hard to keep in contact with its members, the committee has used zoom for meetings and kept in touch by email. We have continued to deal with member enquiries and tried to keep them updated with the regulations around the Covid 19 requirements.

Importantly we have also been able, via our newsletters, to highlight the grants available to Halls from various Government sources. These have helped to make up for loss of income and the various restart schemes have assisted Halls to reopen.

Mary and Steve have continued their work on improving the DVHA website and are making steady progress. As indicated previously John our treasurer stood down and Mary took over on a temporary basis with Steve dealing with membership. My thanks to them for their efforts during a difficult time and to John for his past years of work for the committee. Recently Morarg Devonport has joined the committee and is most welcome, she has expressed an interest in taking on the Job of Treasurer for which we thank her.

It is my view that the DVHA in the last two years has demonstrated that it can react quickly to changing circumstances and keep its members informed during difficult times.

A larger committee would help spread the workload so I would ask that anyone who feels they could help please put yourself forward and join the committee for the benefit of all Halls.

Finally I would like to extend my thanks to the Dorset Council staff for their efforts in assisting Halls get through these difficult times in a most efficient manner. "

MB added that since privatisation of the Post Office in 2013, there have been problems with VH postcodes and they are asking for £200 to be added to the list. AN commented that paying rates demonstrated that the hall exists.

Wessex Internet are providing full fibre broadband in North Dorset. Okeford Fitzpaine VH is having it installed in September.

5. Secretary's report

Mary Mathers (MM) reported that in the last 2 years the DVHA committee had met many times, often via Zoom, to discuss the effect of the Pandemic on VHs and the distribution of news of grants etc via the newsletters.

She also reminded everyone of the sad news of the death of Lois Rose.

6. Treasurer's report

The accounts for the year 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, prepared by the Treasurer John Clode (JC) and 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 prepared by MM were circulated. (Copy attached.)

Morarg Davenport (MD) reported John Clode had stood down as Treasurer 2 years ago.

2 halls had paid their subscriptions even though the committee had decided to suspend subscriptions during the Pandemic.

DVHA are in the process of changing their bank account from HSBC to Lloyds so please don't send subscriptions at the moment!

7. Organisation & Subscriptions

The number of members has now reached 76.

A number of halls have benefitted from the news about grants. Many halls have used their grants to do major repairs.

For the next membership year (April 2022-March 2023) the committee recommend holding the subscription to £10. Agreed unanimously. Invoices will be sent in advance.

Membership allows halls to update their own entry in the dorsethalls.net website and join the Forum.

AN commented that halls need information about things eg chairs. It was suggested that a 'marketplace' would be helpful.

MB commented that, if there was a query that was confidential or you didn't want generally circulated, please contact one of the committee directly.

8. Election of Officers

The following officers and committee members were nominated

Chairman: Mike Burt Proposed AN, seconded Paul Master

Secretary: Mary Mathers Proposed MB, seconded Marion Eldrett

Treasurer: Morarg Davenport Proposed MM, seconded MB

Committee members: Steve Hawker. Richard Hill, Annette Newman

Proposed MB, seconded Paul Master

All agreed unanimously.

9. Any Other Business

RH suggested marketing VHs collectively. SH commented that the website has a search facility and also comes up in the top 10 web searches.

AN said that when BT withdrew their BTCK website software, her hall (Ibberton & Belchalwell) had converted their own website to Krystal.

10. Members' Current Issues

The following subjects were raised:

- Covid Lockdown & Grants
- Reopening after lockdown
- Opening a repair shop
- Opening a Community Café
- Hall Heating
- Solar panels
- Internet Usage agreements
- Vandalism
- Responsibility of Trustees – “The essential Trustee”
- PRS/PPL

Hints on these subjects will be loaded on to the Forum.

11. AOB

Artsreach - AN gave an overview of being an Artsreach venue and promoter

This was followed by a buffet lunch prepared by Morarg, Steve and Mary.

Mary Mathers
Secretary, Dorset Village Halls Association