



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

Minutes of the fourteenth Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 7 May 2022

at Cerne Abbas Village Hall, Kettle Bridge Lane, Cerne Abbas,  
DORCHESTER, DT2 7GY

Present: 28 Representatives from 17 member halls were present plus the speaker and one guest. Lists of attendees and apologies available on request.

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mike Burt (MB) welcomed delegates and thanked Cerne Abbas VH for hosting the AGM. He introduced the current members of the committee – Morarg Davenport (MD), Mary Mathers (MM) Secretary, Steve Hawker (SH) Membership & Website, Annette Newman (AN).

### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

Minutes were previously circulated and copies were available at the door. Proposed by Paul Master (PM), seconded by Marion Eldrett (ME). Agreed unanimously and signed.

### **3. Matters arising**

None

### **4. Chairman's report**

Mike Burt's report was circulated in advance

"The DVHA committee has continued to work hard on improving the service to its members. Steve, Mary and Annette have been looking at improving the website and that work is producing results.

Various halls have asked for advice during the year and the committee members have helped wherever possible. The variations between how halls are governed sometimes makes it difficult to answer definitively.

One of the current problems that has been raised is the PRS/PPL licence. Once again the variations between halls makes it difficult to be definitive, Mary is at present waiting for information from ACRE before the committee can sit down and make an attempt to put together some guidance. It is difficult to find a person to speak to at either of these organisations but we will keep trying.

Hopefully halls are recovering from the effects Covid has had and hall life is gradually restoring to normality.

I would like to thank all our committee members for the work they have put in during these difficult times. Regrettably Richard Hill is standing down and I thank him for his input to the committee over the last year.

If anyone today feels that they would like to join the committee please indicate your willingness and there will not be a shortage of persons willing to propose and second you.

Thank you all for attending and I trust you will find the day interesting and useful."

## **5. Secretary's report**

Mary Mathers (MM) reported that the DVHA committee had met 4 times since the AGM in September. Also 6 newsletters had been sent out covering a wide range of topics including the Government's Plan B, the Omicron Leisure Grant and Living with Covid, installation of broadband & wi-fi, websites for VHs .

## **6. Treasurer's report**

Morarg Davenport (MD) has prepared the accounts for the year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, which were circulated in advance. (Copy attached.) She went through the figures. DVHA have not succeeded in changing their bank account from HSBC to Lloyds as the banks are not accepting new applications. Also the HSBC has instituted a £5 per month charge.

## **7. Organisation & Subscriptions**

The number of members reached 79 in the previous membership year. SH reported that he has sent out invoices and 57 have renewed plus 7 extra halls have joined. 49 certificates have already been sent out with 7 to go out next week.

DVHA have a fairly complete list of VHs in Dorset. AN & SH have chased contacts and sent letters in the post to halls that had no email contact details – 4 have replied.

Chetnole VH did not receive an invoice – SH will investigate.

SH explained that the old technology of the current website makes mailings from it very difficult. He has now downloaded the information and halls are able to have multiple email addresses so that other contacts can receive emails. The current website has been improved but we are still hoping to migrate to a better website.

## **8. Election of Officers**

The following officers and committee members were nominated:

Chairman: Mike Burt Proposed Caroline Tory, seconded Pam Eaton

Secretary: Mary Mathers Proposed MB, seconded Marion Eldrett

Treasurer: Morarg Davenport Proposed SH, seconded Pam Eaton

Committee members: Steve Hawker, Annette Newman

Proposed Sarah Ryan, seconded Barry Goringe

All agreed unanimously.

## **9. Any Other Business**

None

## **10. Renewable Energy**

Keith Wheaton-Green gave a very informative and hands-on presentation covering various renewable technologies (heat source air pumps, solar panels and battery storage) and gave examples of VH and community installations which he has helped. He is willing to assist other halls and/or community projects.

## **11. Members' Current Issues**

The following subjects were raised:

Hallmark – DCA Webinar on 18/05/22

PRS/PPL

Charges for charity Bank accounts – DVHA will consider how to lobby the Charity Commission

Covid regulations

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

## **12. Cerne Abbas Village Hall**

George Mortimer, Chair of Cerne Abbas VH Committee, gave a very interesting presentation on the history of the old hall, construction of the new hall opened in 2006 and current constitution of the hall. This was followed by a tour of the very well-equipped hall and its features

## **13. Demonstration of DVHA Website & Forum**

SH was on-hand to demonstrate the website and Forum to delegates.

This was followed by a buffet lunch with lots of groups networking and comparing notes.

Mary Mathers  
Secretary, Dorset Village Halls Association