



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

Minutes of the sixteenth Annual General Meeting

Held on Saturday 13 May 2023

at St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall, Braeside Road, St Leonards, BH24 2PH

Present: 20 Representatives from 11 member halls were present plus 2 speakers. Apologies from the chairman Mike Burt. Lists of attendees available on request.

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

In Mike Burt's absence, Mary Mathers welcomed delegates and thanked St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall for hosting the AGM. The current members of the committee present were Morarg Davenport (MD) Treasurer, 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 Barry Goringe, seconded by AN. Agreed unanimously and will be signed by the chairman.

### **3. Matters arising**

None

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

Mike Burt's report was circulated in advance and read out by MM.

"I extend my thanks to the committee for the work they have put in over the past year to both keep the association running and also increasing our membership.

A special thanks to Ed Frost for his efforts and I am sorry that he will not be standing in the coming year.

A special thanks to Mary Mathers who has been our Secretary for many years and has put in a large amount of work to keep the association going. Regrettably, she is standing down from the secretary post but is prepared to stand for a place on the Committee.

My thanks to Morarg our Treasurer for the work she has put in setting up our new bank account. Also thanks to Steve and Annette for their efforts on the membership list and website.

The committee have continued to help answer enquiries from member halls wherever we can.

But I foresee difficulties in the future due to energy costs, the cost of living, the reducing wages across the country, increasing rents and mortgage, this is likely to reduce spending power, which may also reduce hall incomes. But alternatively it may be that halls become even more important to reduce travelling and provide events closer to the people only time will tell.

The DVHA will hopefully continue to keep you updated wherever we can with the latest information.

If you feel you are able to put in some time to help, we will need a secretary, and a few new members of the Committee would also be helpful, so if you are able to take one step forward you

will be most welcome.”

## **5. Secretary’s report**

Mary Mathers (MM) reported that the last year has again been a year of change. As we moved out of the pandemic and things started to return to normal, we were hit by the energy crisis.

The DVHA committee had met 6 times since the last AGM. 6 newsletters have been sent out with the emphasis on updating members on energy issues although there was not much good news! Also, we heard about the delayed launch of the Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund. MM hadn’t heard of any local hall that has managed to take advantage of it but Caro Hart (CH) reported that several halls were in the process of applying.

MM joined the DVHA Committee in 2005 when the DVHA was formed and have been the Secretary since April 2007 - 16 years. She recently decided to step down from that role. This was triggered by a health scare which, like for many of us, leads to a re-evaluation of one’s life. Since the re-opening after the Covid shutdown her own hall has become even busier than before and, as she is the Bookings Secretary, there has been a lot more administration recently. MM is willing to continue as a committee member if elected and hope to contribute in other ways.

## **6. Treasurer’s report**

Morarg Davenport (MD) has prepared the accounts for the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, which were circulated in advance. (Copy attached.) She went through the figures and said that the finances were in a healthy situation.

DVHA have opened a new bank account with NatWest and are closing the old one with HSBC as HSBC has instituted a £5 per month charge.

Holt VH has had problems finding a bank account. AN said that she had opened one at Lloyds with no problem.

## **7. Organisation & Subscriptions**

SH reported that he has sent out 94 invoices to existing members and 73 have renewed already plus 3 unidentified payments. 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 178 of the approx. 200 VHs in Dorset.

The plan is to migrate to a new website at some point.

## **8. Election of Officers**

The following committee members were nominated:

Mike Burt, Mary Mathers, Morarg Davenport, Steve Hawker, Annette Newman  
Proposed Margaret Goringe, seconded Alan Gilmore. All agreed unanimously.

Barry Goringe offered to attend meetings if he could.

Morarg Davenport was nominated Treasurer. MM proposed, AN seconded. Agreed unanimously. Other officers to be agreed by the committee.

## **9. Any Other Business**

None

## **10. Renewable Energy**

Keith Wheaton-Green (KW-G) gave an update on his very informative presentation from 2022.

He estimated that Solar PV should cost in the region of £1,200 per Kw installed and payback should take approx. 5 years.

Air-to-air source heat pumps offer 1:6 ratio of efficiency – useful for large spaces.

LED panel lighting uses about half the energy of striplights.

KW-G is willing to give advice and presentations to other halls and/or community projects.

MM asked about 20% VAT on renewable energy installations for VHs. Alderholt VH have written to Michael Tomlinson MP and have received information on a government consultation to remove this (closing 31/05/23).

Caro Hart said that Dorset Community Action is running a low carbon project with 28 VHs. They are preparing a "First Steps" toolkit resource for VHs which will launch at end of May. CH will send links. Low Carbon Dorset is still in existence but with limited funding.

DCA send out 2 funding alerts per month. Dorset Council Fund Finder is also available and will send newsletters.

Grin <https://grin.coop/products/> also produce funding newsletters and database accessible for an annual fee.

## **11. Hallmark**

CH said that an Awards for All application has just been sent off to help fund the running of Hallmark.

The benefits of gaining a Hallmark are

- Demonstrates compliance with legislation
- Reduces risk & shares best practice
- Reduces insurance costs
- Proves to funders a well-run organisation.

Hallmark scheme has 3 levels

- Hallmark 1 – Management & Administration
- Hallmark 2 - Health & Safety, security and licences
- Hallmark 3 - community and users

Costs to apply for Hallmark - £150 per level.

Access to Academy online resource £9 per month.

DCA will train 3-4 people on the next 2-3 months.

## **12. St Leonards & St Ives Village Hall**

Margaret Goringe, Chair of the VH Committee, gave a very interesting presentation on the history and running of the hall. The whole building is owned by the parish council and the hall is managed by the charity trustees. The committee raise funds for improvement by applying for grants and fund-raising locally. They received a £10,000 grant for 27.2 Kw of Solar PV and are now installing batteries. This was followed by a tour of the hall.

This was followed by a buffet lunch with opportunities for networking and comparing notes. Our thanks to SH's brother for collecting the buffet.

## **13. Workshop**

After lunch, MM ran a workshop on hall hire management and booking systems.

Mary Mathers  
Secretary, Dorset Village Halls Association