

# WYTHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held on Thursday 24 June at 8 pm in Park Hall

## AGENDA

### 1 - The President opens the meeting

As her first official action as President, Betsy welcomed everyone to the 2021 Annual General Meeting. Last year's meeting was delayed by Covid and not held until September – this one is moving nearer to our usual March / April date.

Betsy welcomed especially those members who came to support the General Committee.

The President said that as Covid regulations are still in force she hoped everyone feels comfortable and socially distanced and asked that they please keep in their bubbles.

Unfortunately less than 2 months elapsed after the last AGM before we were closed down again. It has been a difficult time especially for our General Manager and his staff with the clearing up of the cellars, the uncertainty of when we can socialise and do activities indoors again, and working to the Covid regulations for meetings that we can host. Betsy thanked Alan and his team for their work.

Betsy also confirmed we have sufficient signed in to be quorate and declared the meeting open. (minimum 25)

### 2 - Apologies and attendance

Committee members in attendance were: Sue Baxter, Alan Griffin, Betsy Johnson, Tony Rand, Helen Cleaver, Ken Byng, Sarah Hessian, Mark Stinton, Des Ashby, Richard Burn, Roy Clarke, Richard Harris, Barrie Stokes, Jim Mann, Howard Knowles, Phil Richardson, Madeline Hanlon, Kevin Turner, Charlotte Quirk

Apologies were received from: Barry Knee, Keith Yates, Les Turner, John Attwood, Mavis Neale, Geoff Denaro, Chris Stokes

Members in attendance were: Trevor Beecham, Bob Green, Sandra Green, Sheila Harris, Dave Harris, Sharon Medhurst, Mike Pugh, Paul Newton, Gordon Christie.

### 3 - Minutes of the 2020 AGM

Sue went through them page by page and asked for anyone to comment if there were any errors. They were proposed by Alan and seconded by Mark.

### 4 - Matters arising

None

### 5 - Annual financial report and accounts for 2020

Betsy went through a summary of the account which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Been a weird year, as our income went up as such due to furlough. We have made a surplus of £14K. All meeting rooms etc were close for much of the year and most

large events were cancelled. Due to a change in council tax band we were able to benefit from government grants as a result.

Charlotte asked about an amount of £1206 shown as a sundry expenses - what did this relate to? This is things like license for the hall and the raffle. Also what are the specific staff costs, Sue and Betsy confirmed that this is not broken down into individual amounts/people. Only salaries over a certain amount have to be disclosed. There are 20 odd staff altogether ranging from part time bar staff to managers.

## **6 - Adoption of annual reports**

Proposed by Richard B and seconded by Kevin T.

## **7 - Appointment of auditors**

Jeromes were proposed and it was agreed that we stay with them.

## **8 - Departmental reports**

### **A - Chairman - Sue Baxter**

Sue's Report - 2020, a year that started normally but little did we know what was in store. Our main financial and community events couldn't go ahead. There was little activity that was able to take place on the park or our facilities, and I think this is a good time to show my thanks for the amount of time and effort that our treasurer put into last year, making sure that we got all of the grants that we were eligible for, understanding the furlough rules and guiding us through the government's Covid health and safety regulations.

I was elected in September last year, when we hoped that we were coming out of the pandemic, but that was not to be and by the end of the year we were in full lockdown. I am pleased to say though that even then we managed to do something on the park for Christmas, supporting the Churches Advent trail. That was the beginning of things that we have been progressing this year, with more activity to encourage our local community to come visit and enjoy the park.

The chair reported that she looked back over the hand out that she produced when elected, to see what if any progress has happened. We are beginning to see a positive change with more activity in the park, and we have started to look at the constitution and business model.

The chair reported on progress with the governance review that is on the Agenda for the general committee following this AGM. The General Committee agreed to set up a steering group who have worked on this and I'd like to hand over to Tony who has written the report in our behalf.

Tony explained about the work that had been done to look at changing to a CIO and what the potential advantages are, including having the land with the same charity rather than 2 different ones. We will need some expert help fairly soon, having done as much as we are able. We also need to look at how we would manage things going forward.

Tony was asked how this would affect the clubs - we would need to vote trustees in and club members could put themselves forwards, would also avoid a conflict of

interest where some trustees are paid. We would also talk to the clubs and ensure they do not lose their voice.

### **B - Secretary - Helen Cleaver**

Having surprised myself by taking this role on in September last year, I am gradually getting to grips with everything.

There have been a few changes to the trustees, and currently we have 32.

### **C - General Manager - Alan Griffin**

Alan said that it's not been a very good year because of Covid, also a lot of the equipment and facilities are getting old and we have also had vandalism. We had to bin beer due to lockdown closing us down. Alan thanked Betsy and all of the staff for the work they have done.

Many functions have been cancelled, rebooked, cancelled again and rebooked again.

Bromsgrove will be putting the Street Theatre on on 4 August.

Bark in the Park which had been cancelled previously has now been rearranged.

Alan thanked the club committee for manning the door, freeing up bar staff to do table service.

Some of the equipment didn't appreciate being shut down for 9 months.

Quite a few clubs/constituent groups are now advising that they are coming back.

### **D - House and Park - Mark Stinton**

Mark said not a lot to report, we are about 12 months behind. Trevor has been doing a lot of the mowing.

Alan mentioned that we have upgraded the CCTV due to vandalism and now have a better system.

### **E - Bonfire - Mark Stinton**

Mark said that as the last Management meeting we agreed to plan for bonfire this year, we are hoping that the restrictions will be lifted, also some talk of a ticket event and concerns that we would lose revenue as a result. Anyone interested in joining the bonfire committee - if so please let us know. Quite a lot to do and we would appreciate the help. Hoping that it will go ahead this year.

### **F - Health & Safety - Betsy Johnson**

Sue mentioned that Betsy would like to give this up.

Betsy said it's mostly been about being Covid appropriate for people and events

### **G - Community Club - Des Ashby**

Des said not a lot to add, also thanked Betsy for her help, and said we are now open, and hoping the restrictions will be eased, and that people will become more confident to return using the club. Thanks also to the staff.

Des said unlikely that we will have a beer festival as we would both struggle for sponsorship and with the numbers we are allowed.

## **9 - Election of Honorary Officers**

- A - President - Betsy proposed by Sue and seconded by Richard Burn
- B - Vice Presidents Geoff & Sue - proposed by Alan and seconded by Ken
- C - Treasurer - Tony proposed by Sue and seconded by Roy, and he will be assisted and supported by Betsy.
- D - Secretary - Helen proposed by Sue and seconded by Sarah

## **10 - Formation of the General Committee**

No additional nominations to join

The current members of the General Committee were proposed by Alan and seconded by Madeline

## **11 - Any other business**

None

## **12 - Recommendations to the General Committee**

None

**13 - Close** - the meeting closed at 20.47.