

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GOODWORTH CLATFORD VILLAGE CLUB ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2020

The President opened the 96th Annual General Meeting by welcoming all those members present and asked them to toast Sir Alfred Yarrow, the Founder of the Village Club.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Sue Hall, John Jarvis, David and Gilly Roberts, Peter and Jane Eastwood, Stephen and Mary Graham, Adrian and Jenny Robley, Pam Morgan and Karen Ryder.

1. **Minutes of the AGM of 4th March 2019** were accepted and signed as a true record, proposed by Alwyn Tucker and seconded by Janie Smyth.

2. **Matters Arising** would be covered in the President's report.

3. **President's Report**

The President started her report by thanking all the members of the committee for all their effort and support during the past year. The committee works as a team, each member bringing their own skills to the committee and together endeavouring to maintain the Club as a vibrant centre of village life. More support is needed from villagers, not only by attending Club events but by joining the committee. Over the past weeks there has been a concerted effort to raise awareness of the need for more volunteers and she was pleased to announce that two people had come forward but with four people standing down, the management team will be short of five members.

It is generally agreed that the Village Club is a vital part of our community. Nobody wants to see the Club close but few people are prepared to give just a little time to ensure it remains a viable concern. The problem of recruitment is not unique to the Village Club. Other committees in our village, and in other villages around the country, are experiencing the same difficulty. As society changes it seems that people are less willing to take on the increasing responsibilities and workload that many committees require. The President asked that if anyone in the audience felt able to volunteer they should put their hand up later when the new committee is nominated.

In the past year, Ann Mulhern and Diana Heal had joined the committee briefly but subsequently left to focus their attention on running Club Coffee which is a great success and the profits from which come to the Club. They were both thanked for their efforts.

Steve and Karen Allen were also leaving the committee. Karen joined the committee nine years ago and had been a hard-working and fully committed member throughout that time - cooking and helping with events, the 100 Club, the kitchen refurbishment and running the bar, were only some of her activities. Steve joined the Club three years ago after his time as steward and he had been not only a fount of knowledge about the building and grounds but also an invaluable pair of hands whenever there was any work to be done. He had given sterling service, most recently during the past weeks of water problems. Grateful thanks went to both Steve and Karen for all their hard work.

Steven Torrington joined as treasurer just a year ago and without him the Club could not have functioned. It wasn't easy getting to grips with everything, especially trying to change all the accounts to his name. He has now moved out of the village so it is sensible that someone else

should take over and Jenny Gorski has agreed to be our new treasurer. Neither Steven nor Jenny came looking for this job but when they were asked to join the committee they both displayed the same attitude, that someone had to take on the role and if no-one else would, then it would be them. They were thanked for being so public-spirited.

The President thanked the Custodian Trustees for all their support and help during the past year and particular thanks were given to Kate Savage for all her work as Steward, and for all the extra effort she gives to the Club. Without her the Club could not function.

The Club continues to have a very full diary averaging around sixteen regular bookings each week, with events on every weekday morning and most afternoons and evenings, plus an additional four or five weekend bookings most months.

Membership of the 100 Club rose to 245 last year. There was also a welcome increase in donations which, with gift aid, gave us nearly £1,700. Sixty-seven people have won prizes so far with ten having won twice and one lucky winner three times. Thanks went to Belinda Jones who, alongside her role as vice-president, had taken over delivering the prize money each month. The 100 Club is one of the major sources of funding and the President thanked all those who had bought tickets. However, only 126 houses, out of over 350 in the village, had joined so there is much scope to increase the membership of the 100 Club.

Steven Torrington will give a detailed report on the Club finances but the President was delighted to report that the finances are in a very healthy condition despite a large amount of work on the Club being carried out during the last year. This situation was helped by grants of over £3,700 from Test valley Borough Council and payments from the insurance company to cover the cost of much of the sewage and water works that had been done in the past six months. One reason why the Club finances are so sound is that much of the maintenance work on the Club is done by committee members. Without their efforts the Club expenses would be substantially higher. The President thanked the gentlemen for their work.

Water - for the past twelve months the focus has been on water. Nearly every piece of pipework, both within and without the building, has been either repaired, replaced, flushed out or, at the very least, inspected internally by camera. The year began with the replacement of much of the internal water pipes after the leak experienced the previous autumn. In July the sewage system failed due to a tree root-ball blocking the outflow pipe. A full assessment of the sewage system revealed that the pump needed to be replaced, the root-ball and a further root needed to be removed, one outflow pipe needed to be re-lined and the small inspection pit needed to be rebuilt. Nothing went smoothly. Not one job was completed as planned. Digging through the gas and the water pipes on the same day didn't help matters. However, progress has been made and a new sewage pump should be fitted later this week.

Just after Christmas the car park flooded due to a burst water pipe beneath the tarmac. Progress by the insurers and their engineering company was slow, not helped by the failure of the latter to decide how to remedy the problem of not being able to find the broken pipe. Much time was spent digging holes and then filling them in the following day. Finally it was decided to use a mole to lay a new pipe but, in all, the work took five weeks to complete. Kate was absolutely brilliant and, when water began to seep up through the concrete floor of the cellar, she fully supported the plan to turn off the water supply. She cannot be thanked enough because for nine

days her water supply was in containers and it is only through her efforts that the Club remained open whilst there was no water.

Enormous thanks, too, were due to Steve Allen and Steve Smyth. Throughout the water fiasco they had both been on-hand. Steve Allen had been constantly visiting the Club, monitoring and advising. Steve Smyth kept Kate's water containers filled and helped at site meetings with the succession of engineers. The President thanked them both for the less pleasant job that they do, unblocking the sewage pipes that run from the back of the Club and from the Scout hut when they become blocked, often because of wet-wipes.

Now in 2020 the Club has much new internal plumbing, a revamped sewage system and a new water supply pipe. Hopefully successors as President will enjoy many years without having to worry about water in and out of the Club.

While water has played a major part during the year there has been other work. The grants from Test Valley enabled us to decorate and re-carpet Kate's bedroom after the flood from the roof. The loose plaster on one wall of the stage was removed, the area re-plastered and the whole stage painted. The new globe lights are now in place in the hall and Kate has a new ride-on lawn-mower.

Other work is less obvious but equally necessary and here thanks are due to other members of the committee, Mike Goddard, Leslie King and Michael Walker. Much of what they do probably goes unnoticed. Mike Goddard has fitted draught-excluders around doors, fitted two new door handles and new lights beneath the stage as well as fitting the final sensors for our fire detection system which is now complete and fully functioning. All these efforts have not only maintained the Club in good condition but have also saved the Club a lot of money.

Annual fire evacuation drills for regular users of the building are being held and annual reviews of our policies for matters such as Health and Safety and Risk Assessment have begun. Thanks go to Cherry Milne for overseeing these policies amongst all the many other secretarial duties carried out for the Club, including running the 100 Club, updating the Club pages on the village website and her swift rendition of the Minutes.

In the grounds Kate has used the new lawn-mower to good effect and has kept the grounds as an attractive place to be. During the summer a working party cleared the ground in the copse and thanks go to the committee members who helped and to Chris Coates who joined us for the morning. The WI bench had to be removed because it had become financially unviable to repair. It will be replaced with, probably, a wrought-iron bench as soon as possible. The BBQ was also removed. It too, needed money for maintenance work and this was considered to be unviable because of how little the BBQ was used.

The entertainment diary was less full than usual last year with only four events: a travel talk by John Pilkington, two performances by Watermill Theatre and a quiz night. These raised just over £1,700, much of this from the Quiz Night, and particular thanks go to Tony Bridger and Steve and Janie Smyth for organising this evening, and also Leslie King and Michael Walker who have taken on running the bar for the events. On Saturday 22nd February there will be an illustrated talk on the 'Gardening Year at Mottisfont' by the head gardener and in May the Watermill

Theatre return with their new play 'Camp Albion' which is about the protesters tree camp when the Newbury bypass was proposed.

The President was pleased to report that the annual report to the Charity Commission had been accepted without comment, and to finish, she thanked all the committee members for contributing towards the organisation and staging of tonight's AGM

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer started by thanking Mark Haszlkiewicz for examining the Accounts. The Village Club is most grateful for his advice and support over the years.

Copies of the accounts had been distributed to all those attending the AGM.

2019 had been a busy year at the Club, both with income and expenditure. The Club showed a surplus of £738 compared to the previous year's surplus of £3734. Looking at the statement of financial activity, a total income of £20189 was generated for the year, slightly down on the £20494 from the previous year. Most of the various income sources were up on last year (ie. hiring and rental, 100 Club, donations and interest) the only income source down on last year's figures was the entertainment.

The total expenditure for the year was up from £16760 to £19451 and this explains the lower total surplus for the 2019 financial year. Running costs (ie. gas, electricity, water and the stewards pay) was slightly up from the previous year. Internal maintenance was substantially up from the previous year, but this was necessary for internal upgrades within the Club. Thankfully the Test Valley Borough Council gave the Club a grant for work done, which amounted to £2167. This was of great assistance in recovering some of the costs. External maintenance was also up and the main reason for this was the purchase of a new lawnmower for the Club, which amounted to £2450. Once again the Test Valley Council granted the Club £1000 towards the purchase of the lawnmower which enabled the Club to purchase a good quality lawnmower.

Administration was also up from the previous year with the main cost being the insurance of the hall and the consultant firm that valued the building, to confirm that the insured amount for the building was correct. The total cost for both the insurance and the consultancy firm was £2200. Other administration costs include telephone, printing, entertainment licence etc.

Total funds have increased from £62105 to £63183 and the Heather Benwell's legacy has been increased to include the interest for the year and stands at £32845.

There were no questions and the Report was accepted having been proposed by Martin Jourdan and seconded by Tony Bridger.

5. Election of members of the Village Club Management Committee

The Secretary read out the nominations received, confirming that they had all been proposed and seconded in accordance with the Club Rules.

Mike Goddard	Jenny Gorski	David Grey	Belinda Jones
Leslie King	Cherry Milne	Steven Torrington	Michael Walker

All the nominations were approved by those present.

6. Election of the President

There was no nomination for President. David Benwell as a Custodian Trustee will assume the Chairmanship of the Management Committee as a temporary measure.

7. Any Other Business

Martin Jourdan raised the problem again of the lack of volunteers willing to put themselves forward for the boards of village organisations, including the Village Shop and the Village Club. A dwindling number of board members resulted in a reduced number of initiatives. The village is fortunate to have an invigorated Parish Council and he urged the Council to address this problem to safeguard the running of essential village amenities. The main question being, how to get the next generation involved in running the village.

Bob Houghton (Chairman Parish Council) replied that he was grateful for the kind comments about the Council and assured those present that part of the neighbourhood plan was a community action to encourage residents to support the amenities in the village. He encouraged everyone to tell any parish councillor or Village Club Committee Member if they had any ideas on the way forward. He also thanked the Club Committee for all their hard work.

David Benwell informed those present of changes to the Custodian Trustees. Gerry Smith and Bob Houghton were standing down and John Milne would become a new Custodian Trustee. These Trustees are the official owners of the land and they ensure that the Club abides by the charity rules and follows the objectives of the Village Club Rules. He also welcomed David Grey to the Management Committee.

David spoke about Margaret Scard's long association with the Village Club having served on the Committee for 25 years. Margaret started with organising the entertainments with a succession of highly successful events and initiatives, moving on to being the driving force in revamping the main hall, ending with two very busy years as President. She was thanked most heartily for her dedication to the Club.

The meeting was formally closed at 8.15pm.

Signed.....Date.....

