

Darsham Village Hall Management Committee
Annual General Meeting
October 20th 2024

Present: Heather Ballantine & Jill Edwards - Joint Chair, Paul Diamond - treasurer, Mark Hemingway - secretary, Annie McPhail, Michael Shipp, David Taylor, Alan Holland, Phil Robinson, Becky Ling, Ronald Clark and approximately 9 members of the Village.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Max Edwards, Sheila Hemingway

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd October 2023 (distributed in advance and available at the meeting)** – These were duly agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the chairpersons.

3. **Appointment of Elected Members** – There were 6 nominations which had been proposed and seconded –Jill Edwards, David Taylor, Becky Ling, Philip Robinson and Mike Backhouse. They were all duly elected by those present. In addition there were two resignations from post, Paul Diamond and Mark Hemingway.

4. **Appointment of Representative Members from the Village Groups** –
 - Alan Holland – Table Tennis
 - Ronald Clark – Petanque
 - Heather Ballantine – Crafty Club
 - Michael Shipp – Carpet Bowls
 - Anne McPhail – The Church

1. **Chairperson’s Report – from Heather Ballantine and Jill Edwards**

This has been another busy year for the management committee and the village hall.

Major activities

The biggest achievement of the year was the completion and opening of the children’s play area. It was the culmination of two years work from initial idea, through consultation to the planning application and finally construction. We were fortunate to get Will Ellard, a Paralympic Gold medallist to come and open the playground, we were very grateful to him and his family, and to our surprise they are distant relatives of Alex Cox, who was part of the team that built the play area. We are waiting on written approval for the revised planting around the perimeter of the play area, which will be extended to the gate thanks to a donation from the Ladies of Leisure. We also have to thank Blake Morrison for the very generous donation from the sale of Glynn Hugo’s pottery at the fete which has been invested in a colourful bench inside the play area for parents to use. We have commemorated this with a plaque on the bench.

We have also been looking at the village green and what can be done to improve the drainage and ground. As you can imagine this will take time and money to make it into a green we can all be proud of. Tree work has taken place to ensure the safety of cars and pedestrians, this is hopefully the last piece of work we will have to pay for that the developer failed to complete.

The management committee paid for the landscaping work around the Petanque court to ensure it is up to the standard expected when competing against other teams.

Other work has seen a new water boiler installed (partly funded by a donation from Magyk Scraps) and fireproofing the curtains and blinds which have to be done every five years. Problems with the drains and sink have necessitated employing external companies to rectify the issues, which it seems may re-occur over time due to the construction of the drains.

The Charity Commission have approved the new 'scheme' which has allowed us to finally join the 21st century and use online banking.

The regular coffee mornings have proved to be successful for the societies in their fundraising efforts and they appreciate the support from villagers. I can't think of a raffle with less than 10 prizes and its usually a lot more!

Following the success of the live streaming of the pantomime and the many families that attended Becky Ling has been instrumental in organising and providing materials for children's craft at stand alone events and at coffee mornings.

The hall continues to be used extensively, not only by the various village clubs and organisations; but also by regular exercise classes, horticultural shows, baby sensory classes, art classes and craft and quilting classes. In addition the hall has been used for PC meetings, Sizewell C Northern Traffic Forum meetings, baby showers, birthday and anniversary parties, a local writers group, exhibitions and not to forget film club.

In addition the hall been used for concerts and gigs.

One off events organised by the committee were the Walking Market, the Race Night, and the previously mentioned Live Pantomime streaming. This year we asked for support from All Saint's Church and the Parish Council in running the Summer Fete, I hope that villagers saw an improved event.

Sadly we are losing two members of our committee who have contributed huge efforts over the last year, in particular with regards to the play area. Our heartfelt thanks go to both Mark and Paul without their drive we wouldn't have got this far as quickly as we did. This means we will be looking for a new treasurer and secretary for the committee, not insignificant roles to fill.

Paul has also acted as the village hall representative on the Cheyney Green Management Committee so this is another role we will be looking to fill.

Our thanks go to all committee members who donate their time and efforts throughout the year in various ways, not always visible. They could not give their time and efforts without the support of their family members so thank you for your continued support.

As a way of ongoing fundraising we have registered with Easy Fundraising details of which are available on the website and Phil Robinson. This is a way of money coming to the village hall when you make purchases with a variety of websites.

The 100 club is another way that villagers continue to support the village hall as an amount of the monthly money raised goes into our funds.

The solar panels have generated money for the Parish Council and have significantly reduced the amount of money being spent on electricity.

We had to take the decision to increase the hall hire fees during the past year as the ongoing costs were beginning to eat into our contingency fund. We still remain one of the cheapest (and nicest) halls to hire in the surrounding area.

Moving forward there are already events planned for March when Blake Morrison and the Hosepipe Band will be performing folk music and poetry and for May when the Wrentham Brass Band will be playing hopefully an outdoor concert.

If there is anyone who feels they have expertise in any area please contact a member of the committee as I'm sure we can find a way to use your talents.

Comments on the Chair's report

There were no further comments against the Chair's report

2. Treasurer's Report: Paul Diamond

1st March 23 to 28th February 24

In summary financially the Village Hall started the year with: £5834.06 in the HSBC current account and £20332.25 in the CCLA deposit account. So £26166.31p in total.

During the year the:

1. 100 Club received £4026, and paid out £2150.
1. Hiring the Hall income was £10559.09.
1. Refund from changing Electricity supplier £2083.77
1. Events and Donations - £2082.05:
1. Coffee mornings £280
1. Race night £897.80
1. Film nights £1786.42

Our outgoings included:

- Cleaning - £1550.40
- Licences - £440.61 incl PRS, 100 Club
- Insurance - £800.15
- Works for village hall of £9419.07 which covered:
 - Fencing etc £3699.60
 - Plumbing £1972.58
 - Playground Programme £228
 - Chairs £839.94
 - CCTV/ICT £267.98

At the end of the year (28th February 24) there was £4019.21 in the current account and £21294.83 in the deposit account. So in total £25314.04.

These figures have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

1st March 23 to date – summary and budget to close

Currently as at 1st September 24 we have £27791.80 in the current account and 21839.24 in the CCLA account. This surplus is in the main due to timing of payments to playground suppliers

Looking forward to the end of the financial year...

- We are in a sound financial position and potentially a £5k surplus by the end of the year.
- We have changed electricity suppliers and this has significantly reduce our costs.
- All playground costs have been covered by ESDC S106 funding.
- We continue to have a good stream activities in the hall and outside including: Petanque; Table Tennis; Yoga and Pilates; Craft events; Parties; Film Nights; and others...
- We have revised our hire charges but managed to keep increases to a reasonable level.
- Tree works will shortly be completed.
- We have finally resolved drainage issues which were down to work completed by Sunbury Homes contractors.
- We have a £5k maintenance sinking fund and £10k fund for depreciation.
- Allowing for our current financial position we are more than able to cover ongoing maintenance needs without village funding. We will continue to look for grant funding when possible.
- We have recently implemented online banking with HSBC and are now able to make payments without using our cheque book!

1. **Any Other Business - none**

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:20pm.