

## **AGM Minutes**

**date 21st September 2021 7.00pm**

**Cardrona Village hall**

**John Sharp** welcomes all. Hall was full, easily above required numbers.

States first AGM for 18 months due to Covid, apologises for the delay.

We considered proposing changing the date for future AGMs (to Summer/Autumn) but found the constitution doesn't allow it to be easily moved. Therefore next AGM likely to be Feb/March time.

Also took the unusual step of setting the subs amount at £30 before the AGM, primarily to avoid confusion and provide the maximum amount of time for people to pay.

Year on year there has been a significant increase in the bank balance so increasing the subs amount wasn't appropriate.

**John** asked for the previous AGM minutes to be approved

Minutes seconded from the last AGM (Susan Walker).

Accounts audited at the end of 2020, with an increase of over £5000 mainly due to a council grant made available during Covid.

Passed over the Ian for the financial summary.

### **Ian Nimmo:**

Key points, no gift aid in the accounts for last year as it wasn't claimed in that timeframe. Noted how important gift aid is to the CVA so please could members return the paper slips which can now back dated and are considered to be a future declaration.

Passed back to John.

### **John Sharp:**

Key point is that we need more subscribers and more volunteers. Noted that with the most recent round we have seen an increase in new subscribers (and a drop off of previous subscribers)

Hall revenue decreased over Covid but is now back to pre covid levels, with a good number of irregular bookings.

Some jobs were done during covid:

Exterior wood painting

New lights

Storage cupboard reorganised (thanks to scouts)

Many left to be done.

Significant costs for the next year are expected to be tree surgery on the green (to reduce height/spread of trees) - we have some quotes.

We have a healthy bank balance which is available for use, for example, we desperately need a new website, we had hoped for a volunteer for this but it looks likely we will have to pay for this.

Unfortunately our main limitation is our time and this has therefore not been progressed.

Over the next few months expected events are Christmas lights and we are looking for closer ties with the hotel, who appear to be keen.

The felling of the trees on the cycle path is expected to take place, previous discussion was mentioned and our role in this was clarified.

With regards to the committee we desperately need new members to fill key roles including Chair, we do not currently fill all required posts so are not in a good position. Noted John and Mark have both been involved now for 6 years which is double the constitutionally allowed duration. Anyone who can volunteer in any capacity would be greatly appreciated as we really need turnover of committee members to bring new enthusiasm into the CVA.

The fallback if there is no CVA is to appoint a factor - we don't think it is likely to be able to happen due to the way the responsibility for payment is split over the village, as this would make collecting funds difficult. It is also unlikely they would manage the hall.

Being part of the CVA is not an arduous task but it isn't fair that the responsibility is split over the few committee members we have for such a long time.

17:20.

John attempted to move to nominating the committee:

We are all prepared to stand for this year but some of the committee members would like to be able to step back so please step forward if you are willing to help.

Robin Waddell commented well done for the accounts. Asked when he would be removed from the account signatories. John replied that this was in process but due to the account types was taking longer than expected.

19:30

**Question** from the floor asking how many subscriptions have been received and what percentage of the households that is. Also, what would the cost be if everyone joined - membership is about inclusion and community. Finally, would we consider a direct debit system?

We did look at direct debits, very low take up and the system was very clunky and required being reset yearly so wasn't a big benefit, though it would be worth revisiting as things have improved in the last few years. Again we are limited by resources.

A card reader would also be useful. We are in a maintenance mode at the moment so things like this are unlikely.

Noted that gift aid forms now cover future donations which also helps.

In regard to the number/proportion of payers: (if all houses are included there are approx 350 houses in total) max ever was approx 160 payees, this has steadily declined with only 85 last year. This year we are already at 80, it is hoped this will increase significantly. What is encouraging is that there are lot of people that have paid who are either new or haven't paid historically. If regular payers also paid this would suggest we could have well over 100.

**Question:** Street reps?

This hasn't been something we have pursued. When we joined there had been some street reps but, whilst this is a good idea, for a number of reasons, it is very difficult to get anyone to volunteer in any capacity, let alone as a street rep which requires someone who is willing to knock on doors and pursue subs.

Brian noted it wasn't arm-twisting and worked well. John pointed out that we have seen a waning in community spirit which makes it less likely people would step into this role. The point was made that we agree street reps are a good idea and work well but the key problem is getting volunteers to do it.

**General discussion** about why people don't pay, various points made as per previous AGMs. Some people already have factors, don't use the common parts/hall etc. Some people don't pay on principle. Some people want us to pursue the legal avenue, others don't want any differentiation across the village. Comment that we ideally would make people want to pay rather than feel they have to. This was our main consideration when we started on the committee with summer games and events to foster a village community feeling. The 184 was mentioned and it was pointed out it wasn't legally enforceable, hence the CVA was set up to be voluntary and wasn't supposed to mention the 184 and it should be forgotten. We would like to forget it, however our most common response is 'no legal requirement to pay'. This is known by a large number of people in the village so is regularly brought into any discussion so it is very difficult.

**Question.** What is the relationship with the hotel and does it pay into the CVA?

Historically villagers would use Spikes bar and were given a discount. This has stopped over the years, largely with the hotel focusing on guests. Just before the pandemic we met with the GM, he was very keen to engage with the village. He has now left that post, but the new GM appears to be like minded so this is ongoing.

**Question:** The website is in need of being rewritten. Could we spend money on it to update it? This has been discussed on the committee, unfortunately again it requires someone to drive this.

#### **Nominations of committee members.**

Seconded by Robin Waddell, no objections to members staying on the committee.

Comment that everyone should help to find new committee members even though our nomination is supported.

**Question:** Could coms be improved over what roles on the committee involve and what tasks require volunteers?

It was acknowledged that it would be a good idea and it was proposed that info was put in the next newsletter. As it stands the current committee members do a bit of everything, with more members specific roles could be filled.

**Comment,** if the new AGM is in approx 6 months, could everyone present please see if they or someone they know could step forwards to join the committee.

**Comment,** thanks for the work the committee does.

**52:30 End of meeting called**