

**MINUTES OF THE UMBERLEIGH VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7pm**

Present:

Paula Alford	Debbie Parr
John Andow (Caretaker)	Stephen Parr
Nigel Brown (Treasurer)	Ann Page
Vanessa Buckpitt	Geoff Shallcross
Michael Champion	Pat Shallcross
Paul Henderson (County Councillor)	Bernard Wignall
Jane Laming (Secretary)	Penny Wignall (Chair)
Sue Lewis	Mary Wilson
Sally Ann Murch	Trevor Wilson

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Andy Alford, Margaret Alford, Colin Allbrook, Eileen Beer, Sam Stobbs</p>	
2	<p>Councillor Paul Henderson, (now an independent councillor, but remains on various county council committees).</p> <p>Paul attended the meeting to enable residents of UMBERLEIGH to raise issues with him:</p> <p>(a) Trevor Wilson asked if the levelling up monies from the Government could cease going to Exeter and be used for the benefit of the North Devon community.</p> <p>(b) Penny commented that the road from UMBERLEIGH to South Molton was in a dreadful state and asked if the lack of repair was due to it being a B road?</p> <p><i>Paul advised that North Devon was one of the poorest councils. Up to 2010 the roads were regularly service dressed, however after 2010 funding from central Government was cut by 75%. To reduce costs, surface dressing was reduced from 10" to 4" depth, resulting in the worn out road network that we have now.</i></p> <p><i>Paul advised that £167million is needed to bring roads to an 'amber' state, but the budget for Devon County Council is £9 million, of which North Devon will receive £3 million. The country roads will not be resurfaced, with the focus on the A & B roads. Paul requested that we need to push the Government to fund county councils.</i></p>	ALL

	<p>(c)John Andow commented on the speeding traffic on Dorridge Hill and the lack of progress on the repairs to Umberleigh bridge.</p> <p><i>Paul advised that the Umberleigh bridge is now on the schedule for repair but the date to be repaired is not known.</i></p> <p><i>Paul commented on the lack of signage to indicate the existence of the primary school. To this end Paul will purchase a flashing speed sign that can be rotated around the area. Paul also advised that Atherington are setting up a speed watch group and invited Umberleigh residents to join.</i></p> <p><i>Paul will request that double white lines are painted on Dorridge Hill to prevent overtaking and he will meet with Highways to review the signage. We will be able to participate in this meeting. Paul to advise of date.</i></p> <p><i>Paula asked if we could purchase signs and Paul advised that price matching could make this possible.</i></p> <p>(d)Penny & Bernard advised of the current situation regarding broadband installation for the village (i.e. that we have come to a halt due to the shortfall on voucher validation).</p> <p><i>Paul will investigate and advise if there is anything further he/we can do.</i></p>	<p>PH</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>PH</p> <p>PH</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Minutes of 2022 AGM</p> <p>Agreed and signed by the Chairman & Secretary</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Matters arising from those Minutes</p> <p>Trevor brought to our attention that the Secretary’s report (Item 6) & the Fibre Broadband report (Item 9) were not attached to the Minutes on our website. Jane apologised for this oversight and offered to send copies to Trevor but he declined the offer.</p> <p>(Item 8) Trevor queried the number of co-opted members that the committee could have, stating that it should be 3 not 5.</p> <p>Jane advised that at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting on 2nd June 1998, the procedure for the election of the committee was clarified. As a result a further committee meeting was held on 16th June 1998 when certain sections of the constitution were updated. This included: Clause 3 Committee of Management Item (4) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than three members TO BE AMENDED TO READ ‘The Committee shall have</p>	

	<p>the power to co-opt not more than five members’.</p> <p>(Item 10) Trevor asked if the projector and screen he suggested be purchased for the hall last year had in fact been purchased.</p> <p>Penny advised that this was forming part of a new audio visual package for which funding was being applied.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Chair’s Report</p> <p>Penny welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented her report:</p> <p>Umberleigh Village Hall Chair’s report April 2023</p> <p>I am pleased to say that during 2022 the village hall continued to return to normality. Bookings increased and there were a number of fund raising events. We started off the year with the Roving Crows, an excellent evening as usual, we hope they will return soon. For the Jubilee we liaised with our close villages to ensure there were no overlaps, Umberleigh held a very popular big breakfast. We had a summer barbecue followed by the 100th Annual Garden show. Once again Linda did an amazing job of organising this, there was more for the children to do and we also introduced a small car boot sale to keep people interested. The show raised record takings this year. The annual Christmas Party was also very well attended with a good turnout to help with preparations the day before. The major fund raising events were the four antiques fairs organised by Jane with a band of helpers.</p> <p>The village hall has been working with the school to provide a car park with a play area beside it for use by the whole village. This is now complete, trees have been planted and even more equipment has been installed.</p> <p>Very recently the Parish Council decided to move the venue for their March meeting to our hall. We were delighted to see a large turnout of people from Umberleigh with a healthy discussion about issues in the Umberleigh part of the Parish. We hope that more meetings may be held here in the future.</p> <p>It has been lovely to see the wide variety of events the hall is being used for. Art classes are amazingly popular, a new yoga class has started. We have also had pig racing, bingo, toddlers play, band and choir practices. Due to the growth in numbers at the school they have also been using the hall more. From music assemblies to after school archery, gymnastics and of course the school play. It was also good to have the really useless theatre company back with this year’s pantomime.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank the committee for volunteering to help the hall, to everyone who has helped with the events we have organised, helping on the day, setting up, clearing up or baking cakes. Thank you to those volunteers who help with the maintenance of the hall, spring cleans and autumn clear ups. Thank you also to everyone who attends the events we organise, without you all we would just have a building.</p>	

6	Treasurer's Report Nigel presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 st January 2023, which are attached to these Minutes. The bank balance at the end of the year was £20,428. The accounts have been circulated to the committee and it was agreed to adopt the accounts.	
7	Secretary's Report Jane presented her report: This last year seems to have been one of consolidation and making improvements to the running of the Hall. The committee is pulling together with a great focus on improving the facilities in the Hall, maintaining a high standard of cleanliness and decoration and attracting more users. To this end, we had a working party back in January when the Hall was given a thorough Spring clean and anything needing attention was identified. This included changing the lights illuminating the car park using a PIR sensor and also in the corridor to the toilets so that lights are not left on accidentally. A new water heater has been installed for hot drinks. The railings have been straightened by Murch Brothers after being hit again, by persons unknown. The toilets have been painted by John Andow to freshen them up. All chairs and carpets have been professionally cleaned. For my part my main focus has been the Antique Fairs of which there were 4 last year with a further 4 planned for the coming year. Whilst fully booked for stallholders, the attendance was mixed - the July fair was poorly attended, as it was one of the hottest days of the year and also clashed with the Wimbledon Men's final and the December fair clashed with Fatstock in South Molton. Major sporting events and local activities have been taken into consideration for this year! That said the October fair raised over £600 for the school and the remaining 3 fairs raised £1300 for the Hall. On the admin side of things all required trustee information has been registered on the Charity Commission website, we have taken part in an audit of village halls by Devon Communities Together and we are reviewing our emergency procedures. Food hygiene regulations have also been reviewed to make sure we are compliant.	

	<p>I would like to thank everyone here for their support and help over the year and also thanks for the wider support of partners and families of the committee who are called upon to assist when needed.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Fundraising Committee's Report</p> <p>Ann Page advised that the fundraising team is to be renamed the Events Committee, reflecting their role in creating events to bring the community together. To this end their first event this year will be a bring & share to celebrate the Coronation on 6th May, to which all are invited.</p> <p>Paula added that the school will be holding a celebratory event on Friday 5th May further details to be circulated via Ann.</p> <p>Mary Wilson commented that new members of the WI expressed their concern that volunteers were not asked to specify their donations to the cake stall, however their worries were unjustified as the usual superb variety was maintained.</p>	<p>PA & AP</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Election of the Committee</p> <p>Trevor questioned the 'cartel' that made up the proposed elected members of the committee.</p> <p>Penny replied that the names put forward were 'proposed' and that if anyone else wished to stand for the elected positions, their nominations would be gratefully received. No such nominations were received.</p> <p>Trevor Wilson questioned the protocol to be followed when appointing co-opted members. He stated that at the AGM the existing committee was only in existence for as long as that meeting lasted, and that the co-opted members should be appointed at the follow on 'new' committee meeting.</p> <p>Jane advised that representatives of local organisations should be organised by their sponsoring organisations in advance of the AGM so their names can be reported at the AGM - this had been done.</p> <p>Co-opted members could be appointed at any time - the AGM can be used to confirm existing co-opted members or make new ones, as per correspondence last year between herself and Martin Rich, from Devon Communities Together who has specific responsibility for the governance and management of village halls.</p> <p>The appointment of the reps and the co-opted members therefore</p>	

	<p>occurred during the AGM. Jane advised Trevor that she was following guidance as she understood it, but that she would seek clarification, advise accordingly and make any amendments to the procedure for the AGM in 2024 if appropriate.</p> <p>The Committee were then elected as follows:</p> <p>5 elected members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Penny Wignall – proposed by Ann Page, seconded Pat Shallcross 2. Nigel Brown – proposed by Paula Alford, seconded John Andow 3. Jane Laming – proposed by Ann Page, seconded Geoff Shallcross 4. Geoff Shallcross – proposed by Penny Wignall, seconded Ann Page 5. Ann Page – proposed by Sue Lewis, seconded John Andow <p>Representatives of four local organisations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Umberleigh School – Paula Alford 2. Atherington & Umberleigh Women’s Institute – Eileen Beer 3. Christian Fellowship – Eileen Beer 4. The Really Useless Theatre Company – Colin Allbrook <p>Co-opted Members (max 5pp)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chittlehampton Parish Council – TBC following appointment of new Parish Councillor 2. Vanessa Buckpitt 3. Sally Ann Murch 4. Sue Lewis <p>Total 12 Trustee Committee members</p>	JL
10	<p>Fibre Broadband</p> <p>This had been discussed earlier with Paul Henderson (see item 2)</p>	
11	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>John Andow asked if a fee could be imposed on hirers who left the hall in a mess. This is to be discussed at the follow on committee meeting when the terms and conditions of our hire agreement is reviewed.</p>	
12	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	

	7pm, Wednesday 24 th April 2024	
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