

**MINUTES OF THE UMBERLEIGH VILLAGE HALL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7pm**

Present:

Paula Alford	Ann Page
Colin Allbrook	Geoff Shallcross
John Andow (Caretaker)	Steph Wyeth
Nigel Brown (Treasurer)	Bernard Wignall
Vanessa Buckpitt	Penny Wignall (Chair)
Linda Holt	Mary Wilson
Paul Henderson (County Councillor)	Trevor Wilson
Jane Laming (Secretary)	
Sue Lewis	
Stella Levy	

No	Item	Action
1	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Andy Alford, Margaret Alford, Eileen Beer, Gareth Homfray-Davies, Sally Ann Murch</p>	
2	<p>Councillor Paul Henderson</p> <p>Paul gave the following update:</p> <p>(a) The Umberleigh bridge is to be repaired the week after the North Devon show on 7th August. Closure to traffic is expected for 3 weeks but there will be pedestrian access across the bridge.</p> <p>(b) The flashing speed sign is still being sourced by Paul. However the request for double white lines on Dorridge Hill, to prevent overtaking, is in progress. Our speed watch group needs to be revitalised.</p> <p>(c) The responsibility for fencing on land adjacent to the road below the railway bridge is believed to be that of the owner of the Station House and not Devon County Council. However Paul is going to investigate this matter further.</p> <p>(d) The sign indicating the turning for 'Hoe' and 'Hawkridge' is to be replaced.</p> <p>(e) The link road is to be opened by end of May/beginning of June.</p>	

	<p>(f) The leader of the County Council John Hart is stepping down.</p> <p>(g) Devolution from Westminster means that more power and money is allocated to the councils. However councils are encouraged to work together and to this end Torbay Council is keen to join forces with North Devon. North Devon would have two seats on the main board. Paul thinks this is not enough representation. The public consultation period on this matter has ended and there will be a special meeting on Monday 29th April to finalise matters.</p> <p>(h) A lot of money has been spent on resurfacing our roads with an extra £10 million being allocated for fixing potholes.</p> <p>(i) Recent road closure signs have been confusing – Paul advised that utility companies etc have their own contractors who do not have to co-ordinate with Devon County Council when they close the roads. The County Council are to instigate a co-ordinated system.</p> <p>(j) Penny & Bernard advised of the current situation regarding broadband installation for the village. ‘Building Digital UK’ is issuing vouchers worth £4,500 per household. They have emailed a small number of people with 33 vouchers offered. 10 people have accepted the vouchers, leaving 23 people yet to accept. Because of data protection Bernard does not know who the people are who have not yet responded.</p> <p>Trevor Wilson queried the progress of those residents with ‘560’ numbers. Bernard advised that ‘560’ and ‘540’ are on two different exchanges and that ‘560’ could not obtain enough vouchers to cover the cost of installation, so they are not on the voucher scheme.</p> <p>Paul suggested that all the information should be collated and passed to Salaine Saxby M.P. to push on our behalf.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Minutes of 2023 AGM</p> <p>Agreed and signed by the Chair & Secretary</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Matters arising from those Minutes</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Chair’s Report</p> <p>Penny presented her report: Another busy year for Umberleigh village hall. Bookings are up and the hall is becoming more popular with all age groups. New classes have</p>	

	<p>started, in particular yoga and contemporary dance. The latter is open to children after school and adults in the evening on Mondays. Art classes continue to be well attended.</p> <p>Fundraising activities have been split between raising money for a new defibrillator, thanks to Christine Allbrook for leading this campaign which included a coffee morning, bingo and Burns Night. Thank you to Mary and Trevor Wilson for masterminding the Burns night and for providing all things Scottish, it was an excellent evening.</p> <p>Thank you to Jane Laming and her band of willing volunteers for organising the regular antiques fairs. These are excellent fundraising activities, bringing money in both from stallholders and the sale of bacon butties, cakes etc.</p> <p>The garden show was once more a great success despite the rather windy conditions numbers visiting the show were high and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was particularly good having a circus skills area which kept the children well entertained. Show entries were down so we all need to get gardening and enter our produce this year. Thank you to Linda Holt for all the work she puts into organising the show.</p> <p>At the end of the year the Christmas party was extremely well attended and very enjoyable. Thank you to Ann Page and her band of helpers for once again organising this, it is a lot of work and we all really appreciate it.</p> <p>We had hoped to install a new audiovisual system last year along with acoustic panels fitted to the ceiling to absorb unwanted sound. However our grant bid failed. We have reworked the bid and obtained fresh quotes and hope to submit an application soon.</p> <p>We feel we have better links to the Parish Council, in part due to their Chair seeing the importance of Umberleigh in the Parish and holding two meetings in our hall. I would like to thank Pat Shallcross, who has been on the council for many years for her commitment to ensuring Umberleigh's voice gets heard. Pat has recently resigned and Paula Alford has taken over. The village hall committee does provide a forum for discussing the needs of Umberleigh and taking these through to the Parish Council. We also feel we have better links with the school, thanks to Paula and other Mums and Dads who attend and help with activities, we held a very successful Halloween afternoon for the children organised by Claire Alexander, its really good to have new people volunteering to organise events.</p> <p>I would like to thank Bernard for his efforts in attempting to bring fibre broadband to 540 numbers in the village. This has been fraught with problems all the way through, Bernard has lost sleep and hair over it, but never daunted has kept going. It is still being made difficult for us but we believe it still may happen if everyone pulls together.</p> <p>Finally I would like to thank the committee for their commitment and work over the year. It is lovely to see the make up of the committee getting younger. Its not easy to balance children, work along with voluntary work, we really appreciate your support.</p>	

<p>6</p>	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Nigel presented the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st January 2024, which are attached to these Minutes. The bank balance at the end of the year was £19,465. The accounts had been circulated to the committee and it had been agreed to adopt the accounts.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>A quieter year with more mundane matters attended to – a welcome sign on the village noticeboard was installed, along with a noticeboard in the hallway for specific hall information and the all important PAT testing of all our electrical equipment has taken place. Our spring clean this year was well supported and helps to maintain a good standard in the Hall.</p> <p>Penny, Nigel and myself have attended a number of Hallshare meetings during the year, whereby representatives of other village halls in North Devon meet once a quarter to share issues, queries, successes and failures. It is a useful resource for the committee. From these meetings, we gain information and ideas on what others halls are doing and seek best practice.</p> <p>The organisation of the Antique Fairs last year went well, with the support of our regular exhibitors. Also of course with the support of our regular helpers both setting up and dismantling the tables, chairs and gazebos and, on the day, running the café, not to forget those of you that provide the delicious cakes – all of you are very much appreciated.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>Events Committee's Report</p> <p>Ann advised that there had been a number of very enjoyable and profitable events during the year. Along with Christine Allbrook the focus had been on the fund for the defibrillator contract which was met. The antique fairs have been going well and the Bingo organised by Paula, Sue, Sally & Vanessa had been very fruitful.</p> <p>Thanks to Claire & Danni Alexander for organising the childrens' Halloween party.</p> <p>The Christmas dinner was not quite so well attended but was a fun evening and the kitchen staff exceeded themselves with an excellent meal.</p> <p>The Burns Night was a very good evening, well attended with the two Pipers organised by Mary & Trevor Wilson making it a night to</p>	

	<p>remember.</p> <p>This year the focus for fundraising is for the hall with the first Antique fair on 28th April, followed by the car boot (19th May) and a village BBQ in July. Details to follow.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Election of the Committee</p> <p>The Committee wereelected as follows:</p> <p>5 elected members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Penny Wignall – proposed by Ann Page, seconded Geoff Shallcross 2. Nigel Brown – proposed by Paula Alford, seconded John Andow 3. Jane Laming – proposed by Ann Page, seconded Paula Alford 4. Geoff Shallcross – proposed by Penny Wignall, seconded Ann Page 5. Ann Page – proposed by Nigel, seconded Jane Laming <p>Representatives of four local organisations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Umberleigh School – Emma Humphrey 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 – Paula Alford 2. Vanessa Buckpitt 3. Sally Ann Murch 4. Sue Lewis 5. Vacant <p>Total 12Trustee Committee members</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Nigel advised the new online booking system for the Hall was working well.</p> <p>Trevor Wilson – gave thanks to Linda Holt for a very well organised Garden Show. He did request that the competition judges be changed and this was noted for next years’ event.</p> <p>Paula advised that a group was formed to oppose the proposed planning at Parkgate. Posters will be distributed shortly. When</p>	

	planning is applied for there will be 3 weeks to collate & submit objections.	
11	Date of Next Meeting 7pm, Wednesday 30 th April 2025	