

Rockbeare Village Hall Management Committee

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 14th May 2015, 7.30pm

Apologies of absence: Martin Horn, Julie Munro

Committee members present: Gerard Noel (President), Sara Hardwick (Chair), Mark Cornish (Vice Chair), Kate Humpherys (Treasurer) [arrived approx. 7.50pm], Laura Buxton (Secretary), Jane Stocker, Alice Gummow, Alex Hardwick

Approval of minutes of 2014 AGM: Approved and signed by Sara.

Chair's Report

Sara began by welcoming everyone, and saying that the agenda may have to be shuffled around as Kate was running a little late.

Sara continued by reporting the achievements of the committee – who are very much a team. Looking backwards (no audio visual! Just a voice – please see pictures on the village hall website). Firstly, the new tables and chairs! The old ones were very old, and came from Exeter Airport when they did a refurb. Great work by Mark who applied to the Big Lottery Fund for the grant to buy the tables and chairs; this had been on the 'to do list' for a long time. We have new coat hooks, thanks to John Stocker, who has also looked at repairing the broken fence. John and Alex will also look at repairing the deck in front of the pavilion before the football tournament in July. John has also repaired the blinds. The hanging baskets are always appreciated by the village too – so thanks to John and Jane Stocker.

Regular users of the hall have increased – Monday has Michaela Poulton dance school, as well as Tuesday. Wednesday has FitSteps, Thursday Zumba, as well as various meetings (Parish Council) and clubs (Needles and Pins, Caged Bird Society). On Saturdays and Sundays football teams make good use of the field.

We have had a memorable Quiz Night, with a double act from Kate and Mark. Mark and his daughter removed the unsafe balance beams from the play area. There seems to have been less vandalism of late, although the new rubbish bins are hard to empty. A brand new gas barbecue was purchased, to facilitate events such as the football tournament and summer BBQ, with a free gas cylinder. There has also been the rounders match, car boot sale, pub night, village produce show, Remembering Rockbeare tea party, casino,

Father Christmas, 80's Disco and lastly the Easter Egg Hunt in April. Fun – mostly!

Looking ahead, Section 106 money ideas need looking at to consult with East Devon District Council and the Parish Council. Disabled access to the hall is still not up to scratch. A Mother and Toddler group may set up – all the equipment to do so has been stored in the 'pump house', thanks to Jane Stocker and Naomi Allen for doing this.

Sara finished by expressing her thanks to the team and also formally tendering her resignation from the committee, effective from the end of the meeting.

Ivan Randall expressed thanks to the committee on behalf of the village.

Mark Cornish stood, and expressed thanks to Sara and Alex Hardwick who are both standing down from the committee. He went onto say how Sara has given fantastic service as Chair over the last two years. As a brilliant chair - person she has overseen a number of fundraising events, with a special mention of her personal involvement in the Remembering Rockbeare event. Being Chair is also about overseeing the small things too: repairs, drainage, fire safety, etc. In this Sara has been diligent. She has also organised the grass cutting (as Lionel retires after many years) and purchase of the tractor. Alex has been invaluable as a tech expert, lighting roadie, H & S champion, website guru and marketing / advertising consultant! [At this point Alex said that he is happy to continue administering the website until someone else can take it on].

The committee presented Sara and Alex with a gift of wine and flowers. Gerard expressed thanks to the committee for keeping up the building – 'Wondrous'!

Mark continued in saying that he thinks the village hall is entering into an exciting time, i.e. increased use, Section 106 money, the Medium Term Plan. Also we host some great events. He expressed the importance of an active committee, and stated the need for more members so that the burden is spread.

Election of committee members for the forthcoming year:

Other than Sara and Alex who have stated their retirement from the committee, all other members were voted onto the committee 'en bloc'. Upon asking if there were any attendees who might also like to join, two people raised their hands:

Nick May, proposed by Jane and seconded by Sara

Marianne Readman, proposed by Kate and seconded by Mark.

Treasurer's Report:

Private hire has increased by about £20, 'regular use' has increased by £250, but the true figure is actually higher (closer to £500), as some invoices were outstanding at end of year. Expenditure was very similar to last year. Six events required Temporary Event Notices (for the sale of alcohol). The barbecue constituted a miscellaneous purchase. Kate has a copy of the balance sheet should anyone wish to peruse it. Looks like a profit of around £600, so very healthy moving forward!

Any Other Business:

Lionel Hawkins' replacement for grass cutting lives in Southbrook and is 'football aware' so should be a great asset.

Ivan Randall met with DCC and EDDC – found difficult to put pins in the picture rails – could they be covered in cork? He brought attention to the tremendous amount of planned development and to be vigilant about Section 106 money. He's also happy to help out with any need for plant.

Sara finished by thanking all for attending and saying that she had enjoyed her time as Chair.

AGM closed 8.05pm