**Weston Village Hall Management Committee**

(Reg. Charity No 504511)

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Monday 22 April 2024**

**7.00pm in bar area of Village Hall**

Attending:

**Committee Members** - Angela Martin (Chair), Alison Elsmore (Secretary/Treasurer), Derek Gair (Bookings Secretary), Julie Gair (Minute Secretary), Gail Wray (Parish Council Representative)

**Guests** – Steve Gatsby (Table Tennis), Hilary Hart (Parish Council), David Hadley (Weston Bowls), Sally Bailey, Jon Mayne

**Apologies**: June Munden

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| Item | Details |
| 1.0 | **Welcome**  Angela Martin, Chair of the Trustees and Management Committee welcomed everyone to the AGM |
| 2.0 | **Minutes of AGM held on 25 April 2023** -These were approved as an accurate record of the meeting by those present |
| 3.0 | **Matters arising**: None |
| 4.0 | Reports for 2023/24  **4.1 Chair’s Report - Angela Martin**  Once again a lot has been happening during the year at the Village Hall. The Committee  have undertaken a number of maintenance and improvement tasks, including:   * Refurbishment of the Bar area including new flooring and tables in the bar area * Replacement of our hot water cylinder with a mains fed system * New fire exit doors in the bar area * Extensive repairs and upgrading to lighting throughout the hall * Re-surfacing of the floor in the main hall * New tables to be used at the fete etc.   As well as yearly maintenance checks on electrics, etc. There are still improvements to be  made and this will involve re-visiting our Development Plan to prioritise these.  Many and varied bookings continue to be made and this year we have welcomed a girls under 14 football team who are using the changing room facility of the Village Hall for a training session once a week. A welcome addition to the activities taking place at the Hall – who knows there may be a future Lioness amongst them.  Fundraising continues, with a successful Fete and Christmas Shopping Evening once again  being well supported. Further community events taking place in the Hall include a very  successful Monday Coffee morning run by members of the Committee on the first Monday  of the month and recently a second Coffee morning held on the third Monday of the month  and run by a member of our Village community (do come along and enjoy tea, coffee and  home-made cake).  Recently, in partnership with the Garrick Theatre in Lichfield a  performance of “Farm Boy” took place in the Hall. This proved to be very popular and it is  hoped that further, similar events can take place.  Last year’s Fete raised much needed funds for the Village Hall (indeed the money raised has  paid for the new surfacing of the floor in the main Hall). It was very disappointing however  that very few volunteers turned up to help with setting up and packing away of items. This  led to much discussion at Committee meetings and it was decided to hold an Open Evening  to discuss the future of the Fete. Two meetings were held and volunteers came forward to  help which was much appreciated by the Committee. It’s not too late to offer your help so  please speak with a Committee member.  As mentioned, we are a small Committee and we do feel now that more members are  needed to help boost the sterling work that the Committee do. Again, please speak with or  contact a committee member if you can help.  I would like to finish my report by thanking the other Committee members – their  commitment, energy and support is truly amazing and they are all a wonderful asset to  the Committee and our Village. |
|  | **4.2** **Treasurer’s Report - Alison Elsmore**  The purpose of this report is to provide the Annual General Meeting of the Management Committee of Weston Village Hall with information concerning the Hall’s financial position as at the end of the financial year – 31st March 2024. The financial report has been prepared by Alison Elsmore, Treasurer. The Financial records have been independently checked and scrutinised by a qualified accountant in preparation for this AGM.   1. **Financial Overview:**    * 1. **Profit and Loss Account to 31/03/23 (Fig 1 see appendix 1) shows an in-year loss of (£7,871.02)**.      2. **The Balance Sheet for the year (Fig 2 see appendix 2) details the hall’s assets of £42,362.38.**   The financial management of the Village Hall has been operated in line with the Hall’s Constitution (March 2021 approved version) and to ensure that the Objects of the Charity are observed.  **Extract from the Constitution:**  *“3. Objects The charity’s objects (‘the objects’) are for the purposes of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Weston Staffordshire without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race, political, religious or other opinions, including the use of the property for meetings, lectures and classes or other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants. [Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the charity for purposes which are not* charitable in accordance *with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and/or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.]”*  **2.0 Income £25,924.85:**  **2.1 Hirings £18,144.77:**  During the year there has been a reduction in income from the hiring of the hall. We lost a regular hirer which resulted in a reduction of £1,690.00 in this area.  We also lost the Post office from our hall this year. However, the contract with the PO was not straight forward and involved the Martin retail group (McCalls in Hixon) who went into receivership in 2022/23. PWC are handling the bankruptcy and we are on a long list of creditors. We are not expecting to realise the amount outstanding.  By working with the PO and the Hixon supermarket the committee’s ambition was to provide a service to our community, the committee charged a low rate to recoup some of the overhead costs only. Therefore, the financial impact of the loss of the post office is not huge. However, the impact on our village should not be under rated.  The Occasional hirings continue to be popular. Full details of the range of groups and individuals hiring our hall, will be in the Bookings Secretary’s report.  **2.2 Additional income raised £6,918.64:**  Additional income is needed to cover the overhead costs that are required to ensure that the hall operates in safe and compliant manner. This has been provided by various fund-raising events and donations, throughout the year. Thank you to all of our supporters for their valuable contributions. Energy refunds from 2022/23 and during this year are also included in this figure.  **2.3 Savings Income - £861.44:**  By maximising interest rates being offered by our bankers we have increased the amount of interest being earned on our reserves this year.  **3.0 Expenditure - £12,270.56**  **3.1 Overheads - £21,525.31:**  Expenditure on the operating overheads for the village hall remains significant. The committee have been informed, in regular financial reports throughout the year, of the various costs incurred running the hall. The hall is operated in a safe and compliant manner, providing a pleasant space for our community to use.   * **Compliance - £3,594.94**:   This area of the report includes for the servicing of various elements of the hall – gas boilers, acoustic wall, etc. It also includes the annual charge for the Entrust compliance monitoring and records system “TAMS” upon which all “evidence” of the servicing and maintenance of the hall is maintained.  This year the committee agreed to engage HSL to carry out the monthly legionella water checks, rather than a volunteer undergoing these actions, as this is a genuine overhead of the hall and is unreasonable to expect an already stretched committee to have to do.  **3.2 Other expenditure - £12,270.56:**  Several areas detailed should be offset against income e.g. Christmas event and village fete etc. This year the trustees are negotiating a **new lease** for the hall. To this end we are working with a solicitor and an initial charge of **£1,200.00** has been paid.  **Furniture and equipment** have been purchased during the year **£9,705.39**. These purchases were in line with the development plan or as needed during the year, and included: -   * New Tables for the fete * New flooring in the bar area * New tables for the bar area * New external door from the bar area * New blinds in the hall – **paid for by the Indoor Bowls Group – Thank you so much**.   **4.0 Conclusion for 2023/24 accounts:**  The hall has had a very busy year with the committee managing to complete several capital projects which have improved the building. I would like to thank all of the committee members (and their spouses) for their commitment to the hall and for their support and work in the undertaking of these projects, particularly Julie and Derek Gair. I would also like to thank our regular hirers for their understanding and flexibility in accommodating the various works.  **The profit and loss account indicates an in-year loss of £7,871.02**.  This includes for the capital works as previously mentioned and the additional cost of the legal work for the new lease – totalling in the region of £13,800. Without these additional costs the hall would have had an in-year profit of £5,929.00. However, we are aware that the overhead costs for our hall are rising and will continue to rise e.g. utility costs.  **5.0 Increase in Hire Charges:**  The committee have scrutinised the 2024/25 budget for the overhead element of our hall and agreed that we will need to increase our hiring charges to enable the hall to operate within budget. The charges have not been reviewed for three years and the committee reluctantly had to conclude that they would need to be increased from September 2024, thus giving 6 months’ notice to our users.  The committee explored various options and agreed the following hourly charges which will take effect from 1st September 2024: -   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Type** | **Hourly charge - From** | **Hourly charge**  **To** | **With effect from** | | Regular users, community groups | £6.50 | £7.00 | 01/09/2024 | | Regular users, businesses | £12.00 | £12.50 | 01/09/2024 | | Occasional Hirings | £20.00 | £21.00 | 01/09/2024 | | Weekend Rate | £195.00 | £200.00 | 01/09/2024 |   **5.0 Summary:**  So, a busy year with costs being monitored and contained. Additional expenses have been made - e.g. increased cleaning- and managed. Capital projects have been executed, in line with our plans and reported upon to the Parish Council and to the community, via our minutes. Reserves are being utilised to improve the facility, as agreed.  The role of Treasurer is a busy one. It was my ambition to raise invoices to our regular users on a monthly basis. However, the pressures of my own work, other voluntary commitments and family commitments, including Stanley the dog! have meant that I have not been able to do this. However, invoices have been raised regularly throughout the year, which reduces the risk of a hirer running up a bill and then not paying. It also improves our cashflow. I am a great advocator of using processes to protect individuals and to improve efficiency. On that basis I am exploring the option to use a booking system which will produce invoices too! Finally, I would like to thank Johan De Wet for the time he has taken to scrutinise these accounts and to support the robust management of the hall’s finances. |
|  | **4.3 Secretary’s Report including Development Plan - Alison Elsmore**  This report is to inform those attending the 2024 AGM, of activities and actions undertaken by the Secretary on behalf of the Weston Village Hall Management Committee during the year April 2023 to March 2024. The report has been prepared by Alison Elsmore.  **1.0 Membership of the Weston Village Hall Management Committee**:  We would like to formally thank the people who work to keep Weston Village Hall operating including: -   * Members of the Volunteer Management Committee * The spouses of those volunteers * Our Two Cleaners – Sue and Margaret. * Those supporters from our community who support our events and the use of the hall on a regular basis.   **1.1 Resignations:**  During the year Hamant Patel, who had been volunteering as our Website Officer, stood down. He has moved from the village and we thank him, for his work and wish him all the very best for the future.  **1.2 Recruitment:**  We were unable to recruit any new members to the committee during this year. However, Irene Winter and Hilary Hart have been working with Julie Gair and myself on applications for funding – we thank them for their support.  **1.4 Structure:**  The committee is made up of the following roles: -   * Chairperson * Treasurer * Secretary * Bookings Secretary * Minutes Secretary * Website and Communications * Parish Council Representative   It is anticipated that the existing committee members should be able to continue to run the Village Hall, thus ensuring that it remains open for community use. But the need to recruit additional support remains high. The committee has the unofficial support of spouses, without which the job would become very difficult indeed. Their contributions towards the maintenance and running of the hall are immensely valued and appreciated by all.  **2.0 Compliance, Cyclical Servicing and Risk Management**  During the 2023/24 year the committee continue to work together to ensure that the building operates in a safe compliant manner.  **2.1 Compliance and Cyclical Servicing**:  The Service Level Agreement with Entrust Ltd is working well. The agreement ensures that all necessary servicing is undertaken in a timely manner and by suitable qualified engineers.  The monthly Legionella water testing and recording thereof, is undertaken by a qualified engineer, rather than relying upon someone on the committee to do this.  Evidence of servicing is uploaded onto the online management system.  Under the Entrust SLA the hall has access to the Staffordshire County Council approved contractor lists and rates. The committee carry out detailed procurement processes when procuring goods and services for the hall, in line with our Finance Policy. Having access to the approved contractor list has been helpful. However, this did not restrict us from obtaining quotations from other contractors too, whilst being mindful of the risks involved.  **2.2 Risk management:**  Risks continue to be identified and managed by the committee.   * Health & Safety/ Compliance risks were identified during legionella checks. Work has been undertaken to address these risks primarily the replacement of the hot water cylinder with a mains fed cylinder. This does away with the risk posed by water in storage, the water tank which was sited on the wall in the main hall, has now been removed. There was a considerable amount of work undertaken to re-pipe the hot water supplies to the kitchen and toilet sinks. * External lighting has been replaced to alleviate car park usage risk. * The external door to the bar area has been replaced with a more robust door which can be used as an external door whilst remaining as an evacuation door. * Financial risks are managed by the Treasurer operating within the financial management policy and procedures, which includes raising invoices on a regular basis, avoiding using cash wherever possible, open and robust financial reports to the committee, online banking and robust procurement processes being followed.   **Risk Assessments / Risk Register:**  The committee do complete risk assessments for their activities. The committee have asked all regular users to provide a copy of their risk assessments and will provide assistance, if required, in creating these.  The committee continues to work upon the creation of a formal risk register.  **3.0 Insurance:** The hall is insured appropriately with Alliance Westminster until the end of Match year. A procurement exercise was undertaken with the result that the hall is now insured with Zurich Insurance from the 1st April 2024 for a three-year period.  **4.0 Policies**:  The following policies have been reviewed, or are in the process of review: -   * Finance Management Policy * Safeguarding Policy * Health & Safety Policy * Privacy Policy * Environment Policy * Equal Opportunities   We will continue to work together to develop and prepare policies and procedures to support the compliant operation of the hall. Support Staffordshire and ACRE provide guidance and knowledge to the committee in this important area.  **5.0 Lease Agreement:**  The VHMC lease the hall from the Parish Council. The lease was created in 1973 for 60 years. There are now less than 10 years left to run.  Two of our Trustees, Angela Martin and myself are working with our Solicitors, Nowell Mellor, to prepare a new lease. This will be on the basis of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). We are being guided by our solicitor on this complex journey.  **6.0 Support Staffordshire**:  We are members of Support Staffordshire, which affords the opportunity to attend networking meetings with other village hall volunteers and also to have access to ACRE and other volunteer groups.  Our officers have attended several networking meetings this year. It has been good to liaise with other management committees, compare what we are all doing and to share good practice. We have made several useful contacts for services and continue to explore others e.g. Solar Heating and Finance / Booking packages. The recent staging of “Farm Boy” from the Lichfield Garrick Theatre was as a result on one of these meetings.  The organisers of theses networking groups are interested in our experiences with Entrust Ltd and may ask us to share these at a future meeting.  **7.0 Development Plan:**  The 2023 – 2026 Development Plan is still relevant. The 2024/25 committee will need to review this to reflect the work that has been completed and any new developments to be planned.  Some of the items that have been completed in 2023/24 are:-   * Lighting upgraded to LED * Report of the state of the roof has been obtained * The Bar area has had new flooring, tables and external door. * The hall floor has been stripped and repolished / sealed. * The hot water provision has been updated to a mains fed system. * A fundraising committee has been established. * Action pans have been completed for water safety and fire safety   **8.0 HS2 / Grant Application Team:**  During the year a subgroup was formed to apply for significant funding to enable the refurbishment of our changing rooms, the play area off the main hall which is used by our playgroup’s children and the installation of solar. Julie Gair co-ordinated the group which included Irene Winter (former committee member); Hilary Hart (Parish Councillor) and myself with my Treasurer hat on.  A considerable amount of work was undertaken to pull together the bid. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all concerned for their time, effort and enthusiasm working on this project. Also to thank all of the groups that use the hall for their contributions too.  Unfortunately, the government stopped the HS2 project. Which meant that the bid was no longer viable. However, much of the work that was undertaken will be relevant for other grant applications. Julie and Hilary continue to look for other opportunities to obtain funding and to continue with the development of our hall. We all look forward to working with them on future projects.  **9.0 Parish Council:**  During the year we have met with the Parish Council to consider the situation with regards to our Lease. From those meetings we have agreed to take the lead on this matter and to work with our own solicitor in creating a new lease with the Parish Council.  We are fortunate to have two of our committee members who are also members of the Parish Council. Gail is the formal PC representative with Julie also being a member of both groups. The work undertaken for the grant application is an example of the two organisations working together well. Another example of this is the Christmas Fair which was a successful joint event and we appreciate the work and support provided by the Parish Council Officers. Gail will update further in her Parish Council report  **10.0 Website:**  Losing “H” from our committee during the year was a blow. He did an excellent job maintaining our window on the world – our website. Julie is now exploring how to manage this facility and will provide more details in her report.  **11.0** **Thanks:**  I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their work over the past year in the running of our hall.   Derek for his work on Bookings.   Julie for taking succinct minutes of our meetings and for her work on capital projects and grant applications.  Gail for her work liaising between the Parish Council and ourselves and for her practical support and of course Angela for pulling us all together whilst “encouraging” none committee members to help too!  Our team of spouses – without whose help we would really struggle!  Our fabulous cleaners, who cope with all that we ask of them and always with a smile and a “can do” attitude.    Our regular hirers for supporting our hall.   Our hall is for our community, run by volunteers and supported by our community without you the hall would be nothing.    Thank you.  On behalf of the committee I would like to formally thank the Indoor Bowls group for their generosity in paying for the new blinds in our hall – thank you so much.  The Parish Council for your commitment to the continued success of our hall. I ask the meeting to accept this report.  **4.4 Website and Social Media Report**  JG advised the meeting that since H Patel had left the committee, she has taken over responsibility for the Village Hall website. It is very much a learning process. Recently, via the Support Staffordshire organisation, village halls were advised that Staffordshire University had advertised the need for placements for MSc Digital Marketing students. JG liaised with the University and the Village Hall Committee has been allocated a student. It is still early days, but the hope is that this collaboration will lead to a more dynamic and interesting website and JG will receive training to support the updating of the website going forward.  **4.5 Bookings Report - Derek Gair**  It’s been the first winter when the heating thermostats for the hall and entrance/toilets area have been connected the correct way around and this have made it much easier to get the correct heating for each event.  The replacement of the external bar door and now having keys to open and lock the door externally has made it much easier to use this area separately, especially when Wombats are in the hall. As an example, the bar area will be used all day for the election polling station on 2nd May when Wombats are in the main hall. The polling officers with be able to use toilets in the football area.  The hall is still well used by regular users during the week and Yoga lessons have this year increased by an additional evening.  Occasional users are still mainly from outside of Weston. We do get many compliments on the cleanliness, facilities, size of the hall and car park.   The parish council agree to a Stafford Falcons girls' team using our changing rooms and the car park for games played on Saturday mornings during the football season.  **4.6 Parish Council Representative’s Report - Gail Wray**  The Parish Council for Weston and Gayton meet on the second Tuesday of the month and the as the representative I report on activities associated with Weston Village Hall. These monthly meetings ensure that both the Parish councillors and Village Hall committee members receive up to date information, and also helps maintain a good working relationship. One of the main issues in 2023 has been the renewal/ extension of the Weston Village Hall lease which will enable the Village Hall to apply for grants to update the building facilities in certain areas. Items discussed at the PCC meetings can be viewed on the Village notice board and online. |
|  | **4.7 Reports from Regular User**  **Easy Step**: No formal report received  **FSD Dance**: No formal report received  **Football Club**: No formal report received  **Roger Parkes Vocal Group**: No formal report received  **Indoor Bowls** - There is currently a core membership of 20 people, which is considered to be the maximum at any given time for bowling to be played smoothly. Any additional people who wish to join can be put on a waiting list until a vacancy occurs. The bowls club is well supported and provides a friendly atmosphere for those attending. In the past year the club has contributed financial support to the [following.eg](http://following.eg/). monthly donations to “ Air Ambulance , and also funded the new blinds for the top windows in the hall. The bowls club is very keen to play its part in providing support as appropriate to give the community of “Weston Village” a hall to be proud of.” David Hadley, Weston indoor Bowls Representative.  **Monday Ladies Badminton** - Recently gained some new members, the group consist of ladies who enjoy playing badminton but also enjoy a cuppa and a chat. Anyone is welcome.  **Table Tennis** - During the TT season 2023-24, Weston TTC entered three teams into the local Stafford Table Tennis League, which was an increase on the two teams entered in the previous season. We remain extremely hopeful that we will be able to maintain this number for season 2024-25.  The good news is that now there is only one division, no team gets relegated. However, none of the Weston teams actually finished at the bottom and they all enjoyed playing at a competitive level throughout the season.  After a summer break, our Tuesday evening TT sessions recommenced in early September and as in recent years we hope to continue well into the summer months even with competition from the Men’s Euro football tournament taking place during this period.  The Tuesday sessions have been very popular and well attended throughout this time and the current standard of play is probably at the highest level it’s ever been. The pleasing aspect is that all of the more experienced players are happy to pass on any expertise they may have to help improve the quality of play to any newcomers to the sport. Indeed, so successful are these sessions that for the first time ever, we now have a short waiting list of people who wish to attend and join us. I am always aware that this situation can swiftly change. However, long may it continue.  May I conclude with once again, a big thank you to the Village Hall Committee members and any others who help all of us that use the facility in the pursuit and enjoyment of our relevant hobbies, sports and interests. Many thanks Steven Gadsby  **Thursday Badminton** - The badminton club has had a good year with a steady number of players each evening. We play from 7.30pm till 9.00pm on a Thursday for most of the year. The club hopes to keep the fees down to £2 for each session and the first session free but this will have to be reviewed if the cost of the hall rental goes up this year. The risk  assessment form was updated this year. It has been decided that from this year the club will be for adult players with experience and there will be no one under the age of 18yrs. This is due to the fact that an adult in the club would have to do a DBS check and a safeguarding course for the club to have players’ under18yrs. June Munden  **U3A Table Tennis** -VH is a pleasant venue for myself and my U3A members to play table tennis Everything works smoothly especially now that the floor has been resurfaced.  We all enjoy our coffee mornings with your community. Carol Burnett  **Wombats** - I would like start by saying thank you to Bob and Tony for repairing wombats shed it is very much appreciated and Derek for also helping out with heating etc. and Julie for their hard work and also yourself with HS2 project and hopefully we may get play area updated. Wombats has 14 children on registration 11 full time 3 part time with two members of staff. We have had Ofsted in July 2023 which happy to say received “good provider “which is great. We have insurance with pre-school learning alliance. Karen and myself would like to say a huge thank you for your support. We are into our 57th year and hope to carry on thank you again. Tina Blackman  **Yoga** - Elena briefly popped into the meeting and thanked the committee for their support  **Pilates** - The group is well supported by members. They have their own insurance and complete their own risk assessments. Happy with the hall over the last year. The heating has been fine and very pleased with the refurbished hall floor |
| 5.0 | **Election of Trustees/Management Committee for 2024/25**  All the current committee members confirmed they are willing to offer themselves for re-election for the 2024/25 year. The meeting approved these nominations. The appointment of officer roles will be undertaken at the committee meeting which will follow the AGM. Jon Mayne volunteered to be the Health and Safety Representative |
| 6.0 | **Appointing Auditor for 2024/25**  Jan de Wet has agreed to undertake this role. This was approved by members attending the meeting. |
| 7.0 | **Any other business** – none |
|  | **Attached – Appendix 1 Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet** |