

Annual General Meeting of Harbury Village Library and Biblio's Cafe

March 6th, 2023

Present: Sharon Hancock (Chairman), Richard Fowler (Library), Jill Baker (Cafe), Tim Lockley (Parish Council), Liz McBride (Church representative), Karen Rea (School representative), Rosemary Blackburn (Treasurer, Keith Thompson, Sally Stringer, John Stringer, Ann Mayer, Peggie Middleton, Michael Luntley, Dee Luntley, Ed Wilson, Neville Sheasby, Sue Wurr, Sue Turner, David Turner, Gill Hardy, Janice Montague, Annette Hughes, Gill Holden, Sue Jones,), Nicola Thompson, Ruth Walton (Minutes)

Apologies: Rosemary Harley, Sheila Scott, Paul Hancock, Yvonne Hancock, Mary Thompson, Chris Andrews, Pat Draper

Matters Arising: None

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the AGM held on 7th March 2022 were approved.

Chairman's Report (Sharon - circulated prior to meeting):

Sharon noted that although Nicola had retired since the previous AGM, she had kindly stepped back into the role of Treasurer temporarily and had subsequently been supporting Rosemary Blackburn as the new Treasurer. Thanks were given to Nicola and Liz for their help with this transition.

Sharon referred to the increase in the cost of living and the impact this would have on the cafe. She referred to the use of HVL as a Warm Welcome Space.

Thanks were given to Ed for his work on the heating project which was progressing, to Sally for all her work over the years taking minutes, to the Steering Committee and to all the HVL and Biblio's volunteers.

Treasurer's Report (Nicola - circulated prior to meeting): Nicola noted that a surplus of a little over £4,000 had been generated in the last financial year, a little lower than the prior year. Figures were beginning to return to pre-Covid levels.

She thanked Rosemary for agreeing to be Treasurer and asked everyone to bear with her as she became familiar with the role.

Library Report (Richard – circulated prior to meeting): Richard referred to an article in the Harbury and Ladbroke News where the Head Teacher of Harbury Primary School described the library as “a fantastic asset for the village”. There was a sense that closer links were being formed between the library and the school and Richard thanked Karen for her role in this. Karen said that the children loved visiting the library.

Annette thanked Sue for helping to fill in for library volunteers.

Biblio's Report (Jill – circulated prior to meeting): Jill thanked the village for supporting the cafe and the volunteers for all their work. Particular thanks were given to David for the sign in the cafe and to Terry Timms for his help with maintenance work.

Although not quite at pre-Covid levels, Jill observed that footfall was increasing. She added that most customers now pay by card which leads to less cash available for purchases and carries a commission cost. She wondered whether it was possible to obtain a booster to improve the signal for the SumUp machine. Richard agreed to look into this.

Thanks were given to Keith for his support with Health and Safety matters and to the cafe committee for their continued help.

Jill looked forward to increasing footfall in the cafe and reminded everyone that new ideas were always welcome.

Ann raised the issue of prams blocking the aisles in the library, notably on Thursdays when Tunes and Tales took place.. Various options were discussed and Janice and Richard agreed to investigate possible solutions.

It was noted that more highchairs were needed and Jill advised that funds were available to purchase these as the result of a donation.

Heating Report (Ed): Ed explained that he and Mike BALL had researched heating and lighting data for the building going back to 2012. The boiler and radiators would need to be replaced and consideration was being given to secondary glazing and a suspended insulated ceiling to save energy. As part of the grant application process, three quotes would be required for each element of the project. Ed planned to seek advice from others in the village who had enjoyed success with grant applications.

A number of potential sources of grant funding were suggested including Heart of England Community Foundation, Library Improvements Fund, HS2, Severn Trent, Coventry Building Society and the Lottery.

As Shotteswell library have had success with grant applications in the past, it was agreed this was a valuable source of information.

Liz advised that the Diocese would want to be kept informed of proposals under the terms of the lease.

Ed indicated that a broad estimate for the cost of the works was £100,000 but could be as much as £200,000. The pre-school was not in a position to contribute towards the cost of any works.

Art report: In Martin's absence, Sharon read from his report. There had been 59 exhibits from 30 artists during 2022 and efforts had been made to source work from a wider geographical area. Income was £189. It was planned to reintroduce the sale of greetings cards with commission on sales contributing to library funds.

Election of Officers: Sharon stepped down while the Tim oversaw the election of the Chairman and Treasurer.

Chairman – Sharon was willing to stand again for one more year. There were no other proposals. Sharon was unanimously elected.

Treasurer – Rosemary Blackburn. There were no other proposals. Rosemary was unanimously elected.

AOB:

Keith asked about the uptake of the library as a designated warm space. Richard reported that there had been less demand than expected in the mornings so that facility had been discontinued. Uptake was greater during the day, however, and demand was expected to increase. There was no cost to the library as donations were sufficient to cover the cost of drinks provided.

Rosemary wondered whether it was intended to reach out to the community for funding the heating and lighting project. Richard's preference was not to do so unless for a smaller, specific project and Sharon agreed.

Rosemary thanked Nicola for her help in handing over the role of Treasurer.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.