

Garvald Village Hall Trust (GVHT) AGM
Minutes of meeting 16th November 2023 – Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Gary McGregor **GM** Chair, Shirley Evatt **SE** Secretary, Brian Hills **BH** Treasurer, Sarah Ramsay **SR** Trustee, Richard Brand **RB**, Lee Robertson **LR**, Tom Edmonds **TE**, Donald Sutherland **DS**, Phillip White **PW** Chair of Garvald & Morham Community Council (GMCC).

Apologies: James Mowatt **JM**, Elaine Macmillan **EM** (Bookings Secretary)

Minutes of the last AGM on 10th November 2022 were approved as a true and accurate account and seconded.

Opening Statements from the Chair

- **GM** welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming along.
- James Mowat will be stepping down from the committee as he has now relocated from the village, leaving a vacancy for a new committee member.
- Anne Raitt confirmed that she would like to join the committee.
- Other committee members remain as Gary McGregor (Chair), Shirley Evatt (Secretary), Brian Hills (Treasurer), Richard Brand, Lee Robertson, Tom Edmonds and Donald Sutherland
- Trustees remain as Sarah Ramsay, Hugo Straker and Iain Marwick.

Bookings and Fundraising

- **GM** reiterated that the hall is a great facility the importance of ensuring its future use for the community.
- **EM** had provided a summary report on bookings for the past year which **GM** shared:
 - A number of community events have taken place over the year such as the children's Halloween and Christmas parties and the annual Hogmanay Hoolie. Many of these events were supported by GMCC.
 - The Horticultural Society held the annual Village Show again which was very successful and generated a generous contribution towards Hall funds.
 - Craft sessions for the children were held to make posters and decorations for parties with another planned on 9th December, to prepare for the Christmas supper and children's Christmas party.

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- Several local residents continue to use the hall for table tennis and dancing.
 - A number of private parties have been held.
 - The MB Arts drama group continues however the number of classes has decreased and they have confirmed that they are reviewing the timetable for the coming year.
 - The Yoga Class continues weekly however numbers have been decreasing therefore it is likely that this will stop at the end of the year.
 - The Playgroup continues and is moving from a Wednesday morning to Thursday morning. This is also supported by GMCC.
 - A local craft group has been set up, again supported by GMCC.
 - The GVMCC meetings are held in the hall, bi-monthly, alternating with Morham Hall.
 - The Post Office continues to offer weekly services on a Thursday morning. Numbers using the service are fairly low.
 - There have also been some one of uses/private bookings including one wedding, Fred Olsen Renewables event, Scottish Opera event, Jazz night and a Lammermuir Festival event. All of which were very well attended.
 - A few fundraising events have taken place, including the very successful and enjoyable Garvald Memories evening and two Coffee Afternoons, one of which was combined with a plant table top sale.
- **RB** has been working hard to promote the hall as a venue with an update to the information pack now available on the website. This is already proving to be successful with a number of wedding bookings coming in for next year.
 - **EM** will be standing down as Bookings Secretary therefore a vacancy has arisen to fill this position. This role is remunerated.

Finance

- **BH** shared a Finance update:
 - Three accounts exist for the hall including the Treasurers account for expenditure, Contingency account for rainy days and unknowns, and the Deposit account for Community Council funding etc.
 - The total opening balance at the beginning of the year was £9045.00
 - The total closing balance at the end of the year was £8884.00 down by £548 from the previous period.
 - The year ahead is looking good with a number of wedding bookings confirmed.
 - £8500.00 was granted by the GMCC through the Windfarm funding to assist with hall fabric surveys. Thank you very much to them for this.
- **RB** noted that the hall hire rates were increased for the first time in 6 years to ensure we are continuing to operate in a fair manner.

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Hall Surveys and Repairs

- **SE** provided an update on planned survey and hall repair works
 - Given the age of the hall and limited planned maintenance which has been carried out over the years the hall is now in need of essential repair to address issues with water ingress, roof and stone defects, rotting window frames and other window defects and internal cracking and plaster issues.
 - As noted, funding was made available to the GVHT by the GMCC to support architectural and engineering survey work which will help determine the full scope of repairs required and help to prioritise works and assess likely costs.
 - **SE** offered to answer any questions from attendees but no questions were raised.

Closing Statements from the Chair

- **GM** reiterated once more that the hall is a valuable asset to the community and encouraged all to take an interest and use the hall.
- **GM** thanked the committee members for their continued hard work and support and thanked all attendees for coming along.
- **GM** introduced Haddington Camera Club to the room who provided an interesting presentation and display about their group.