

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
'THE VILLAGE VOICE' ASSOCIATION**

PLACE: Chilmark House, Chilmark

DATE & TIME: Monday 17th October 2022. 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Richard Eaton; Glen Miller; Sarah Miller; Mike Scott, Bev Small, Peter Young

MINUTES:

1. The meeting opened at 19.08
2. It was noted that notice had been given to all recipients of the Village Voice and that the meeting was open for public attendance and a quorum was present.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting of 19th October 2021 were proposed to be accepted by Bev Small and seconded by Sarah Miller and carried by those present.

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report – In my view the VV remains an important part of village life throughout the last year of the covid pandemic.

The magazine depends on a network of volunteers/distributors and I'd like to express my gratitude for all their help in ensuring the hard copies are delivered each month, and also owe thanks to our wonderful team of proof-readers, namely Bev & Angus Small & Bryan Cross. We are also indebted to Spectrum Print for always providing a fast and efficient print turn around. Overall, we get positive feedback from both readers and advertisers.

In conclusion the VV is important to the cohesion of the village. I'll close by thanking Sarah and Glen Miller, supported by Mike Scott and the team for all they do in bringing the VV into so many homes.

5. Treasurer's Report - The seventh year of operation of the Village Voice printed newsletter was again financially sound, supplemented with generous funding of £350 received from the Parish Council. A successful advertising campaign was run, and despite a small churn of advertisers during the year all advertising space remaining full throughout the year. The advertising and the grant contributing enough money to cover the printing costs and produce an operating surplus for the year of £530.00. It should be noted that the Parish Council paid its grant earlier than the prior year so two payments fell in the same financial year. For comparison's sake

the true operating surplus was £280.00. The Village Voice operation sits at the financial year end with a reserve fund of £1,440.85 but again this is inflated by the £350.00 but still remains at a healthy £1090.85. The printer has increased his printing costs for this financial year by some 25%, but with the decision to drop the four versions with the extra four pages the net effect is minor and the forecasted print costs for this financial year amount to £1040.20 not substantially different from prior years. I would therefore not suggest a rise in advertising rates at this point. Overall, there are sufficient funds to ensure the long-term future of the newsletter if other factors remain the same, however, this is thanks to the fact that all the costs and work in the preparation, production, administration, and delivery of the newsletter, is conducted on a voluntary basis. In conclusion, I report a very satisfactory year all round, and I would like to offer a vote of thanks to Richard, the Chairman, for his support to the Village Voice over the past year.

A full set of accounts checked and approved by James Lock was presented to the meeting

The report acceptance was proposed by Glen Miller and seconded by Bev Small and carried by those present.

- 6. Committee – Richard Eaton had indicated that he is prepared to stand as Chairman and there being no other candidates, Richard Eaton was proposed by Sarah Miller and seconded by Bev Small. Mike Scott had indicated that he is prepared to stand as Treasurer and there being no other candidates, Mike Scott was proposed by Sarah Miller and seconded by Richard Eaton. Sarah Miller had indicated that she is prepared to stand as Editor and there being no other candidates, Sarah Miller was proposed by Mike Scott and seconded by Richard Eaton. Bev Small had indicated that she is prepared to stand as Deputy Editor and there being no other candidates, Bev Small was proposed by Glen Miller and seconded by Sarah Miller. Glen Miller had indicated that he was prepared to stand as a committee member. Glen Miller was proposed by Bev Small and seconded by Mike Scott. It was proposed and agreed that the committee should be expanded to include Peter Young by Glen Miller and seconded by Bev Small.**
- 7. Discussion on Advertising Rates – With the increase in printing costs and given that no increase in advertising had been made over the seven years since inception of the newsletter, it was generally felt that some increase in rates were due. A figure of £45 for a one eighth page advertisement and £65 for a quarter page were finally settled upon. This to be implemented from the 1st January 2023. It was also stated that only one warning for non-payment of an invoice should be made before removing the advertiser from the next edition. Some discussion on the Goods and Services removal was held but the general opinion was that keeping the newsletter to a 16 page edition was the way forward in consideration of the balance between copy**

and advertising and the difficulty in sometimes filling 20 pages with increased copy should this occur.

8. Amendments to the Constitution

No amendments.

9. Any Other Business

None

The meeting closed at 19.48

Mike Scott

Richard Eaton, Chairman
Signed as agreed record

Dated: 22nd October 2021