

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

PLACE: Chilmark House, Chilmark

DATE & TIME: Wednesday 15th November 2023. 6.30pm

PRESENT:

Sally Butcher; Glen Miller; Sarah Miller; Jo Scott; Mike Scott, Bev Small, Peter Young

MINUTES:

1. The meeting opened at 18.40
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 17th October 2022 were proposed to be accepted by Mike Scott and seconded by Sarah Miller and carried by those present.

There were no matters arising.

The Association has received an email from Richard Eaton resigning as Chairman of the Committee of the Village Voice. He stated that as he had moved from the village it would not be appropriate to continue. In his absence Mike Scott took the chair.

4. Chairman's Report – No Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's Report - The eighth 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 summary of the key points of the report were:
 - a. An audited version of the report validated by James Lock is presented to the meeting
 - b. The Village Voice made a small surplus over the year of £80.80 with a reserve fund of £1521.65
 - c. The increase in printing costs had not caused an increase in the total costs as the reduction in page count for four editions had offset this increase.

- d. Peter asked about the £700 received the prior year. This was due to two payments of £350 being received in the financial year due to the Parish Council advancing the point at which they paid,
- e. The increase in Advertising rates had very little effect in the last financial year but would be more significant in a full year probably raising an extra £80 per annum.
- f. As of the Meeting the bank balance stood at £1404.65 with outstanding billing not received of £240. However just prior to the meeting we discovered that Tisbury Pre School were not renewing their advertising.
- g. Mike indicated that he wished after eight years as treasurer and five years producing the prior publication the Church & Village News to stand down. He would however be prepared to continue in post until a suitable replacement was found. The committee thanked Mike for his excellent work over the years.
- h. Sally suggested that in the longer term posts might need to be adjusted to take into account of the skills of the incoming person and the role of Secretary be separated from that of the Treasurer. This would also be true for the future needs for publishing the newsletter in whatever form it may take hardcopy and/or electronic.

ACTION: Mike to draft for Sarah an outline of the role and the work involved to place in the next Village Voice.

The acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Sarah and seconded by Bev.

A discussion followed on advertising, and it was stated by Sarah that the pool of people waiting for advertising space had disappeared and all people contacted had not wished to advertise after all. Peter noted that this represented a possible risk of a decline of £250 in revenue this financial year. Sarah expected to pick up at least two new advertisers. However, Peter suggested that the committee attempt to identify new potential advertisers to approach.

ACTION: Sarah to draw up list of available space before looking for new advertisers

- 6. Committee – Peter Young had indicated that he is prepared to stand as Chairman and there being no other candidates, Peter Young was proposed by Glen Miller and seconded by Bev Small. Peter identified that as a member of the Parish Council he would declare his interest at any meeting. However, it was noted that at the Annual Village meeting he could present

on behalf of the Village Voice. As incoming Chairman Peter took the Chair of the meeting.

ACTION: Sarah to give Peter copies of the prior reports and requests for the support of a grant

The post of Treasurer stands in abeyance. Sarah Miller had indicated that she is prepared to stand as Editor and there being no other candidates, Sarah Miller was proposed by Peter and seconded by Bev. Bev Small had indicated that she is prepared to stand as Deputy Editor and there being no other candidates, Bev Small was proposed by Mike and seconded by Sarah Miller. Glen Miller had indicated that he was prepared to stand as Designer. Glen Miller was proposed by Bev and seconded by Peter. It was proposed and agreed that the committee should be expanded to include Sally Butcher proposed by Sarah and seconded by Bev.

7. Amendments to the Constitution

No amendments.

8. Any Other Business

- a. The succession planning and future of the Village Voice was discussed. It was felt that it would be more advantageous to have more people attending meetings. It would be better to hold future meetings in a more public place such as the Reading Room and this will be implemented next meeting. The succession planning has now become a much more urgent challenge, in recognition that those persons involved and the presentation media may look very different in the future. To facilitate this more meetings will be required.

ACTION: Peter to convene a meeting in the summer

- b. The hosting of Website and emails need to change. Peter suggests that any costs involved should be re-imbursed.

ACTION: Mike to transfer domain to Glen

- c. Sarah stated that she was happy to produce a weekly village diary by email.
- d. Sarah needed to ensure a regular Church news input to fill the current slot was happening.

ACTION: Peter to check that this will take place.

There being no further items the meeting closed at 19.45

Mike Scott

**Peter Young, Chairman
Signed as agreed record**

Dated: 16th November 2023