

Minutes of the Special General Meeting of the committee held in the Committee Room on Wednesday 7th August 2024 at 7.30pm

Present: Andrew Sharp (Chairman), Catherine Randall (Secretary), Sharon Young (Treasurer), David Pankhurst, Geoff Porter, Iain Ure, Julia Bove, Emma Cooling and Richard Witherby

- 1) **Apologies for absence** Apologies received from Joan Cullen, Clare Lister, Belinda Shoemaker
- 2) **Approval of the Minutes of the OGM held on 12th June 2024** The Minutes, having been circulated after the last meeting, were approved by the Committee as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed.
- 3) **Matters arising** Wifi – several people had expressed their pleasure with the new Wifi connection.

Fire Inspection – David Pankhurst has received the report following the recent inspection, There is nothing of note that requires attention.

- 4) **Treasurer 's report**- Sharon has approached several people to see if they would be willing to act as auditor but has not found anybody yet.
- 5) **Correspondence** There was no correspondence
- 6) **Treasurer** The current account balance is £4355. The reserve account balance is £19250. Sharon has now fully taken over the Treasurer responsibilities from Joan. She has spent a lot of time reconciling the accounts and working out an invoicing system
- 7) **New Committee members** - Richard Witherby agreed to join the committee and was duly voted in. He was warmly welcomed.

8) **Chair of the Committee** – Andrew Sharp resigned as Chair. A vote was held and Richard Witherby was duly elected.

9) **Secretary of the Committee** - Catherine Randall resigned as Secretary and Julia Bove was duly elected.

10) **Solar panels** - David reported that he has received replies to his letters from Clinton Devon Estates and Otter Valley Association who had expressed their support for the proposed scheme. He has also received correspondence from East Budleigh Community shop about their recently installed solar panels.

David has been in contact with the Planning Officer at East Devon who has confirmed in writing that planning permission is not required for the panels providing certain stipulations are met. The only relevant one is that the panels must be sited 1m in from the edge of the roof. The proposal from 365 did not allow for this so they have resubmitted a new layout of panels. It still provides for 23 panels, just a different layout. It seems if this stipulation is met then the installation would be considered permitted development.

The next stage is funding. David will investigate this further and the committee was also asked to research funding opportunities. Emma said that she would be happy to organise a fundraising event for match funding purposes.

Emma left the meeting.

11) **Community shop** - Geoff confirmed that the shop had no issues apart from the Lease renewal which will be discussed later.

He reported that the shop alarm had recently gone off in the early hours due to a power cut and a shop neighbour had complained at the disturbance. The shop committee are now investigating emergency contacts and how this would work in the future.

12) Weeding/grass cutting – the current contractors charge £20/hour for cutting the grass and weeding the curtilage as and when required. This costs £80/month in the summer months. There was a discussion as to whether this was a reasonable sum but it was concluded that, although this is a large expense for the Hall, it was the going rate.

13) Any other Business – A discussion took place as to whether the LPG chamber had recently been inspected by Calor. This needs to be checked.

Andrew confirmed that he would be standing down from the Committee since he is moving out of the village but would be very happy to help wherever necessary. He was warmly thanked for his long service of 37 years.

14) The shop Lease - Geoff Porter, as shop representative, left the meeting while the Committee discussed this issue. Iain Ure, Catherine Randall and David Pankhurst declared that they hold shares in the Community shop.

Iain updated the Committee on his discussions with the Community Shop committee Chair. The Committee agreed that Andrew Sharp and Catherine Randall should form a sub committee with Iain Ure to assist him where they can. The proposals were discussed in detail but not recorded here due to their sensitive commercial nature. Iain was authorised to return to the shop committee with further proposals in an attempt to agree the terms of a new Lease

15) Date of next meeting – It was felt that another meeting would be required soon. Thursday 3rd October 2024 was proposed. The Committee is asked to confirm if this is convenient

Meeting finished 8.45pm

