

## FONTMELL MAGNA VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall  
on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mrs R-A Yates (Chairman), Mrs L Le Druillenec (Secretary), Mr R Stainer (Treasurer), Mrs S Highnam (Bookings Manager), Mr D Bone, Mrs S Bird, Mr R Hillman, Mr P Mole, Ms Christine Scott, Mrs Sue Morgan, Mrs Briony Long and 8 members of the public, namely Mrs S Daniell, Mr & Mrs R East, Mrs A Smale, Mrs P Burbidge, Mrs S Jones, Mr C Johnstone, Mrs Laura Scott-Walby (Guest Speaker).

**1) APOLOGIES:** Mr M Hobbs, Mrs A Main, Mrs E Gendell, Mr G Bone, Mrs L Murchie, Mrs Sara-Jane Glanville

**2) MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 were approved by Stephanie Bird and seconded by Roger Hillman, passed unanimously and duly signed.

**3) MATTERS ARISING:** None

**4) TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021:** The Chairman read from her annual update. She thanked the Treasurer and Secretary for their hard work keeping up to date with the ever-changing Covid advice from insurers and government. The Christmas Fayre planned for December 2020 was quickly brought forward to October as an Early Christmas Market. We were blessed with lovely weather and supported by 22 stall holders we raised a further £1,700 towards the Playground appeal. Subsequent lockdowns gave us the chance to start much needed maintenance at the hall including repainting, replacing the old tennis net, upgrading the lighting to Low Energy LED and implementing Fire Safety recommendations.

Above all we must thank Sian for her Cut Flower Garden initiative. Her drive and determination opened doors and raised money leading to the formal Opening of the Garden in June. The Friendship Garden is supported by a regular Pop-up Café on Wednesday afternoons at the Village Hall which has started well and will continue until the end of the Summer. Once the garden goes to sleep the Community Lunches will be revived for September, October, November, January, February and March.

We have 3 volunteers joining the Fontmell Friendship Garden Sub-Committee: Briony Long, Sue Morgan and Sara-Jane Glanville. They will give support to the Management Committee.

There are 2 upcoming events, firstly National Play Day on 4<sup>th</sup> August aimed at Children which is FREE to all and includes tennis coaching and other sporting and crafting activities and is being supported and promoted by the school. Then, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October we will be holding an Early Christmas Market.

Beyond that we have no major plans, however, we have applied for a Community Re-start Grant from Dorset Council for funding for the Community Lunches which will enable us to offer these 6 lunches completely Free of Charge. Re-start Grants, a Government initiative, are open to all community groups so if any Trustee Representative needs advice or help on how to apply for re-

start grants to get their Group, Club or Society up and running again please contact Lisa who has regular updates on what grants are available.

The Chairman then explained that Gerry Bone would be stepping down from his role as Representative Trustee for the Indoor Bowls Club. Rosie-Anne thanked him for his time and support serving as a Trustee and that we were very fortunate that he would be replaced by his son, Derek. Derek was welcomed to the Committee.

Louise was unable to attend this evening, so the Chairman gave her update for the Tennis Court. The tennis court had been run on a donation basis during the lockdown and revenue was down on the previous year. The court had been well-used since restrictions were removed. The court surface is still in very good condition and there have been no problems with moss this year. A new net was purchased in the spring. No other maintenance is needed apart from occasional sweeping and weeding. Many people have commented on what a lovely court we have, one of the best in the area. We are particularly keen to encourage young people and have organised some short tennis coaching during the Fun Day on 4<sup>th</sup> August. Hopefully this will encourage more children to get involved.

Sian was then invited to give the first Annual Update on the Fontmell Friendship Garden (FFG) and read from the Annual Report. She thanked everyone involved in the FFG, many of whom were here tonight, without whose support this would not have been possible. The project came about following a meeting with the Social Prescribing lead at Blackmore Vale Partnership in the Autumn of 2020. Thanks to grants and donations there were seeds growing and raised beds on the ground by the end of January and just 6 months later is in full production. The FFG was formally opened in June. All Village stakeholders have been involved with the garden. She thanked Briony for looking after the sweet peas at the Pub. The bee bombs did not do well planted under the trees. There are 2 hedgehog houses donated by Clayesmore and we are looking forward to receiving the photos they took of the Grand opening. Sue East was thanked for her support and that of the Gardening Club. The Craft Club was thanked for the bunting they made especially for the event. Thanks also to Barbara Humphries for creating the Garden lending library and to the Archive Society for the loan of display boards. The next event for the garden (after the Fun Day) is "Hello Yellow" on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October to support young people's mental health. There will be yellow theme for the day with Children from St Andrews School planting daffodil bulbs, wearing yellow, and serving yellow food and drinks. We are expecting more input from Keith Harrison (Head of the Social Prescribing Team) and Dorset Mind who aim to signpost more people to us in the garden.

Sian then explained her idea for next year's flower beds in the FFG. She thought it would be a nice idea to have beds dedicated to each club for the Platinum Jubilee so that each club was represented through the planting of flowers, suggestions welcomed. This was well received.

- 5) **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Dick Stainer then presented the Income and Expenditure Accounts for 2020/21. The Accounts had been checked by R. Foster. Hire income was a long way down on last year and even last year our figures were lower than usual as we were missing 6 weeks of hire income. This year's hire income figures are just for the very short period when we were able to open. However, we have received £17,431.00 in Grant Income (Local Restrictions Support Grants). Fortunately, we had applied for extended retail grants at the beginning of the

first National lockdown and they had kept our details on record enabling us to apply for further funding when we went into subsequent lockdowns. These grants were then paid automatically to the Village Hall for as long as the various lockdowns or local restrictions lasted on a rolling basis.

Expenditure is just about in line with last year but the painting of the hall costing £6,200 pushed the Maintenance figure up. Water and Internet Costs were high due to set up costs and adjustments but as both accounts are fixed at £5 a month the annual charge will be just £60 each in the future. The Electricity is down as billing is now correct and done on a proper basis thanks to moving to Good Energy.

Because of the large amount of grant money the assets have gone up by £11,000. We've not needed to spend the grant money yet, but we do need to hold onto it for the future as we do not believe we will see this level of lockdown grant payments again.

The following is held in the Restricted Fund of £15,676.75: £577.14 which was transferred from the Fete Committee for the VE Day celebrations and which is now being kept for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. £42.71 for the Community Lunches when they restart. The Fontmell Friendship Garden has £2,429.18. The Tennis Court has £4,149.16 and the Playground £8,478.56.

The Available Funds stand at £28,656.13. This is in excess of what we should be holding according to Charity Commission guidelines. We must hold a reserve of at least £18,000 to cover 18 months of no income. This leaves the Hall with excess funds of between £5,000 and £10,000 which can be spent to the benefit of the hall and hall users under its charitable objective to provide and maintain facilities to the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Fontmell Magna.

Dick explained some of the ideas that had been put forward for expenditure including a Bicycle Parking Rack; upgrade of the amplifier to integrate the extra Hearing Loop equipment that is required with new Sound System speakers; replacement of the outdoor Sodium light with LED lighting in line with Dark Skies/AONB recommendations. Other improvements suggested included a freezer and a new extractor for the kitchen. The Chairman asked that if anyone had any ideas for items or improvements which would benefit the community to please send in their suggestion for consideration at our next meeting.

The approval of the Annual Report and Accounts 2021 was put to the vote, proposed by Rosie Anne Yates, seconded by Sian Highnam and passed nem con.

## 6) RE-ELECTION OF:

**A) Chairman (2021 to 2024):** Dick Stainer took the Chair for the voting. Rosie-Anne confirmed she was willing to be re-elected for a further term of 3 years. There were no other candidates. Her re-election as Chairman was proposed by Roger Hillman and seconded by Sian Highnam. Rosie-Anne was re-elected unanimously.

**A) Secretary (2021 to 2024):** Lisa confirmed that she was willing to be re-elected in this role.

Proposed by Roger Hillman, seconded by Sian Highnam.

Roger Hillman then proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers of the Village Hall for all their hard work during these difficult times, particularly Lisa and Dick's work to secure grant money which saved us completely, he said he didn't know where else we would have been able to find £9,500 to cover our annual costs. Peter Mole echoed the words of Roger Hillman and said it was a fantastic team doing a fantastic job.

**7) APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES MEMBERS:**

The Chairman advised that Gerry Bone would be stepping down as the Bowls Club Representative and that his son Derek would be taking his place as their Representative Trustee. The following Trustees were appointed for 2021/22:

ARCHIVE SOCIETY	MR R HILLMAN
MOVIOLA	MRS A MAIN/MRS.E.GENDALL
ART GROUP	Mr P MOLE
CARPET BOWLS	MR D BONE
FONTMELL SOCIETY	MR M HOBBS
GARDEN CLUB	MRS S BIRD
TENNIS COURT	MRS L MURCHIE

The Chairman reiterated that there are grants available for community groups to help them get back on the road again.

**8) APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE:**

Christine Scott was appointed as a Co-opted member for 2021/22 and welcomed.

**9) APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS TO THE FFG SUB-COMMITTEE**

Sara-Jane Glanville, Briony Long and Sue Morgan were welcomed and formally appointed as members of the Friendship Flower Garden Sub-Committee for 2021/22. Their appointment was proposed by Roger Hillman and seconded by Dick Stainer. Rosie-Anne thanked them for their support.

**10) DATES OF COMING YEAR'S MEETINGS: 2021: 1<sup>st</sup> September, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. 2022: 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> July. AGM: 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

**11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.**

With no further business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm