

Spaldwick Village Hall – Annual General Meeting, April 4th 2019

Present: Committee: Shayne Parfrey, Lyndy Pullen, Raine Thompson, Paul Webb and Amba Harbour

Members of the public as detailed on the sign in sheet. Richard Holman Robert Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Yvette Webb, Sian Hooban, Shona Roughsedge, Nick Thompson, Julia Rutherford, Francisco Ferrero

Number Present: 9 public plus 5. No Apologies.

Welcome: Meeting opened at 8pm by LP

Purpose of the meeting:

- To enable the village to hear reports from the committee on its progress and work over the year.
- To elect the committee for next year.
- To make any constitution changes.

Minutes of Previous AGM: RH commented that some points were missed ie Grafham water and bus shelter ideas. He also thought they were biased towards St James Church. They were adopted as a reflection of the meeting with some clarifications needed which would be addressed during the AGM.

Financial Report:

- Next annual return due April 2019, this will cover the year end June 2018.
- One cheque was issued. This was to rent the community room for the AGM.
- Annual Interest amounted to £1184.81
- Interest rate has increased from 0.317% - 0.410%, to 0.532%-0.550%.
- Balance: Dec 2017 £261,412.26, Dec 2018 £262,555.02 (gain of £1142.76)

Progress on suggestions to date:

BURY FIELD:

Agent from Robinson Hall (representing Mr Brown) requested to meet committee in Feb. The committee confirmed a lack of appetite for a village hall at present in the village and for any housing development on Bury Field. The interest to purchase Bury Field on behalf of the village solely as land was expressed. The agent reported that “the potential sale of the land has been put on hold for the moment, however it has not been dismissed.”

At the AGM there was an agreement not to pursue this further.

CHURCH RE_DEVELOPMENT:

The PCC of St James has finalised plans to develop the church. A toilet and kitchenette is planned and for the pews to be removed to create a flexible space for the community. This is to be financed through fundraising and grants. The church will be operating independently but welcome village events and activities to use the space once it is available.

SUGGESTIONS NEEDING LAND:

Examples reviewed include a skate park, tennis court, band stand, outdoor gym and pavilion.

At the AGM it was decided as no land is available within the village these could not be discussed further.

SUGGESTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTING FUNDS:

Examples included; funding to further a village individuals travelling expenses to further a project or ambition, involvement with a charity, aid an under developed village in the third world, support the youth in the village to provide specific activities.

At the AGM it was discussed that these would deplete the fund quickly, other local villages have investments from which they provide smaller local funding.

It was agreed that with no current project or land available within the village the money should be invested and funds raised could be spent on needs within the village. The full investment should be possible to dissolve should land become available or a suitable village need arise.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:

The land behind the pub was raised as a potential plot of land. It was explained that the committee had looked into this and visited the site. The land has planning permission and is therefore of a high price. There would be no monies left to build once the land was purchased. The land was also deemed to be of an unsuitable layout.

Village Hall Committee Concerns:

- The pot of money continues to deplete in real terms at a significant rate.
- Land for purchase is not forthcoming.

This was agreed as a result of previous discussion.

Village Hall Committee Proposals:

- Investment funds and distribution of part of the income.
- Purchase a property for rent and distribution of part of the income.e

The tax implications and liquidity of purchasing a property were discussed. Commercial property rental, new build suggested as less risk and maintenance. It was decided this was too great a risk for the village to take on.

Investment companies were discussed and some initial research shared. RTa agreed to review paperwork, drawing on his experience.

The Committee were mandated to look into investment opportunities and share these with the village for a decision to be made. No-one objected.

The charities commission is to be contacted to check our proposals. Suggestion to print a flyer to notify the village.

Committee Elections:

Louise Worrell (Spaldwick Primary School) has resigned.

Not had a parish council representative at a meeting this year.

NT has nominated LP, RT, PW, SP and AH to again.

YW has seconded the committee to restand as it is.

There were no objections.

Meeting ended 20:48.