

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Weston Village Hall

6.15pm, Wednesday 13th September 2023

Present: Venera Town (Chair), Lori Weber, Velda Kemp, Katie Lewis, Chris Chowney
Fiona Leathart, Pat and Roger Duggan

Apologies: José Wilson, Peter Brookes

Minutes of the AGM of 15 September 2022 were unanimously approved. Proposed Chris Chowney, seconded Lori Weber.

Matters arising: Alan Hammond had joined the committee and attended a meeting, but had then been unable to attend two meetings and resigned because of other calls on his time.

Annual Reports

Chairman: Venera reported that the team had produced 10 wonderful editions of the magazine during the year. She thanked the members of the committee for all that they do for the magazine. She especially thanked Velda for the three years she has spent as treasurer. She is now standing down from that role, but staying on the committee, and we are looking for a new treasurer. She thanked Peter Brookes, who has taken over distribution from José and is joining the committee. Finally she thanked the contributors and advertisers, without whom there wouldn't be a magazine, and all those who deliver it, to over 650 households.

Editor: Lori reported that the full colour magazine, with its photographs and illustrations, continued to please readers. She expressed gratitude to the regular contributors such as the parish councils, Liz Rainer, Jan Powell, Ian Lewis, Jon Billings, and Christine Flint from Hope Mansell, and reported that Hopes Ash Farm would be providing regular information on farming. Front cover images were being contributed by members of Ross Photo Club. The variety of articles continues to increase, and Lori hopes to carry on bringing interesting and unexpected content, keeping a local focus, and welcoming suggestions and input, including letters, from readers. Advertisers are also taking advantage of the colour printing. We need to maximise advertising to ensure a viable financial bias, but it will never make up more than half of the magazine. She has developed a pattern in the magazine of the pages where regular features appear. Lori also thanked her husband David Weber for his support in artwork preparation, and Katie Lewis for proofreading and sharing the responsibility.

Treasurer: Velda presented the accounts, which had been independently verified. They show a loss of £542.96 over the year, which is down to rising printing costs and some advertisers dropping out. Some funds had been moved from the Coventry Building Society to the current account with Lloyds. The combined bank balances stood at £3147.52 on 31st July 2023. Lori explained that we are able to cover a shortfall from our reserves, which are intended to support communication in the two parishes and are no longer needed for purposes such as printers, and we are also working to minimise the annual loss by boosting advertising income and lowering printing costs by having two or three 20-page editions a

year. All advertisers had paid, and adverts on the website cover website costs. The accounts were adopted, proposer Fiona Leathart, seconder Venera Town.

Elections:

Officers: There was only one candidate for each post, and so the election/re-election en bloc of the following was proposed by Chris Chowney and seconded by Velda Kemp.

Chairman Venera Town

Editor Lori Weber

Secretary Katie Lewis

Treasurer

Committee members: The following were the only candidates and their election/re-election en bloc was proposed by Katie Lewis and seconded by Roger Duggan.

Chris Chowney

Peter Brookes

Velda Kemp

José Wilson

Any Other Business

Pat and Roger Duggan said they had been at an event in Penyard Gardens which was sparsely attended, and Lori will include a message in the magazine that notices of charity events can be included in the relevant month free of charge.

The meeting closed at 6.45 pm.