

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Weston Village Hall

4.40 pm Wednesday 16 October 2024

Present: *Lori Weber (chaired the meeting), Katie Lewis, Karen Scott, Chris Chowney, Peter Brookes, José Wilson, Velda Kemp*

We were sorry to hear of the recent death of Alan Hammond, a previous committee member.

Apologies: None

Minutes of the AGM of 13 September 2023 were approved. Proposed Chris Chowney, seconded Velda Kemp.

Matters arising: A treasurer had been found.

Annual Reports

Secretary: As Venera Town had very recently stood down as chair, as a one-off Katie Lewis, the Secretary, presented a report on the year's activities. She expressed our thanks to Venera for all the help she's given to Weston News over the last six years: for printing the magazine and being a valued member of the folding and stapling team from 2018 to 2020, and being a committee member since 2018, then for her involvement in delivering the magazine in Hope Mansell and for being our chairman for the last two years. Katie welcomed Karen Scott to the committee in the role of Treasurer. Katie reported that Lori had produced editions that took into account the reduced number of adverts and income but were interesting and attractive; that Chris Chowney (website) and Peter Brookes (distribution) had done great jobs, and Velda Kemp and José Wilson (now leaving the committee, at the end of an era) had given welcome support. Finally Katie had expressed the committee's thanks to all the contributors and advertisers and those who distribute the magazine.

Editor: Lori Weber reported that the colour magazine is still a joy to create and there are still regular contributors supplying articles on gardening, cooking, local society events and farming. Images for the front cover have not been provided as before, but she has a stock for the moment. Front cover images are not very forthcoming at the moment, but she has a small stock, largely supplied by Alli Board of Hope Mansell. Lori no longer includes planning or police incidents, which can be readily found on the internet. She has settled on placing articles in the same place and puts most adverts towards the back, but moves individual adverts around within the space to give added exposure. We have lost a few advertisers and need to find more, but Lori is keen to keep more than 50% of the magazine editorial, and recent magazines have been only 20 pages – or even 16 pages! – long. She thanked Katie Lewis for her help and support. David Weber remains happy to supply graphic design services. Lori welcomes feedback and suggestions from colleagues and readers.

Treasurer: Karen Scott presented the audited accounts for 2023/24. These showed a small deficit of £150, which is around £400 smaller than last year's. Income from advertising was a little lower than the previous year, but so were printing and other costs. A chance meeting with a Weston-under-Penyard parish councillor had led to the Parish Council granting

Weston News an annual contribution of £250. Lori further explained that we have reserves which no longer need to cover capital expenditure as before, so we can sustain a small annual deficit.

Elections:

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

Chairman Lori Weber

Editor Lori Weber

Secretary Katie Lewis

Treasurer Karen Scott

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

Chris Chowney

Peter Brookes

Velda Kemp

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 5.02 pm.