

Annual General Meeting

Glatton Village Hall Committee Meeting

17th May 2021

Present: Jane Brignall, Lisa Smith, Stephen Smith, Glenn Ford, Sara Hunter-Dodds, Erica Berry

Apologies: None

Welcome by the acting chairman

Steve opened the AGM at 6.30pm and welcomed the committee and the public.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th April 2021 were signed as a true record of proceedings.

Annual Reports

Treasurer's Report

JB presented the details of the treasurer's report and also confirmed that we have appointed a new auditor, Carol Rogers, who has taken over from Jo Williams.

A statement of accounts were presented for the financial year ended 31st December 2020,

These accounts were already agreed by the committee in the meeting on 17th April 2021 and sent to the Charities Commission.

JB confirmed that had we not received the Covid grant from the government, the vhall would have been in financial trouble.

A copy is attached.

Balances as at 31st December 2020

Community Account	£11,283
Business Account	£1,016
Savings Account	£78
Petty Cash	£110
Total	£12,487

Chair's Annual Report

SS as acting chair thanked Terry Brignall and Jane Brignall for all their hard work and dedication to the vhall. He also recognised the huge amount of time and commitment that had been given to the vhall redevelopment by TB and the development committee.

SS read out the Chair and Committee report and explained to the public the reasons for the resignations and the dissolving of the vhall development committee.

Over the past few months however we are pleased to say we do have 3 new committee members that have now joined the team.

SS closed the meeting and requested that all current committee members stand down.

Appointment and Election of the management committee (Trustees) 2021/2022

People present were invited to stand as committee members for the year 2021/2022. The new existing committee were happy to stand again but unfortunately there were no additional volunteers from the public.

The new committee members were then elected and are as follows:

Stephen Smith - Chairman
Glenn Ford – Vice Chair
Jane Brignall – Treasurer and Bookings Clerk
Lisa Smith – Secretary
Sara Hunter-Dodds - Trustee
Erica Berry – Trustee

Specific Roles and responsibilities were postponed until the next committee meeting.

The meeting was then opened to the public.

Open Meeting and Any Other Business

Vhall Reopening

JB confirmed that we could reopen with Covid limitations in place straight away. It was agreed to open initially for the current user groups as of the 18th May 2021 and not allow private parties to take place until further government Covid restrictions allow us to do so safely.

It was noted that we had not got a representative from the church or parish council on the vhall committee, so John Piggott agreed to be the interim person for the church and Carl Stretton to be the parish representative.

Maintenance & Refurbishment Project – Open Meeting

Neil Varnham (former VHDC member) was invited to share the story behind the scenes and the vision of what the vhall could be like in the future to everyone present.

NV wanted to put on the record the enormous amount of effort put in by the team especially the work undertaken by Terry Brignall.

The development committee (VHDC) proposal had seen the hall move from just being a village hall to a community centre for everyone to use.

The vision of the hall was that it had to be fit for purpose for generations to come.

They (VHDC) were in conversation with the relevant conservation, heritage bodies and also invited input from the villagers.

NV confirmed that there were a few stumbling blocks early on, none of which were deemed to be insurmountable.

They (VHDC) believed that they could raise approx. 60-70% of the money needed to rebuild through various grants and other funding options.

Following the presentation to the parish council and as a direct consequence of the councillor's response the VHDC decided that they could not and would not take the project forward.

The members of the VHDC all resigned.
Terry and Neil also resigned from the VHC.

SS stated that the committee were extremely saddened by the outcome especially as the VHDC had worked so hard to present (albeit work in progress) a vision of the opportunity to enhance the village hall.

SS personally thanked the team for their efforts.

SS stated that he believed that the vhall needs to be rebuilt in the future but didn't know if we would ever be in a position to raise enough money. Finding a person to take on the fundraising role had proved to be an issue.

John Piggot (Church representative) commented that the church did not want to install a kitchen in the church and still wanted to use the vhall facilities and wanted to know why the parish council had not supported the rebuild project.

Carl Stretton (Chairman of the Parish Council) explained that when the proposal was put to the council they were only given and looked at one option.

The parish council having looked at the one option had deemed the project to big but weren't given an alternative to consider.

JP commented that he didn't get the feeling that the parish council would take the project on in any format, however that was not what was said in the parish council meeting when they were asked to look at the project and the minutes to this meeting can be seen for all to see on the village website.

JB was surprised when the vhall received the parish council email to find that all the comments raised had been answered at the parish council meeting, but there was nothing in the email to suggest they would be happy to go forward with the development if plans were tweaked or redrawn.

SS believed that the parish council would have supported a project, but not necessarily in its current form.

CS confirmed that they were only given one option.

JP hoped that the parish council would support a vision for the future.

CS confirmed that the parish council would support a project, JP also confirmed that the church would be supportive of a project in the future.

SS then asked each member of the public and committee about their thoughts and how they would like to see the future of the hall. They are as follows:

Andrew (Mychelles Mead) would like to see the hall being used again and commented on what a great asset it is to the village.

Carl Stretton who used to be chair of the vhall many years ago was saddened to think that the parish council is seen to have not supported the project.

Mandy Allen is sad that the project didn't get put to the villagers to see and comment before the plug being pulled.

Neil Varnham said it just needs the support for it to have been moved forward, he also confirmed that the development team had no money and had to negotiate work with an architect who agreed to not get paid unless the project went to the next phase. The drawings and design were only a first phase impression and was not set in stone – they needed to start somewhere and gauge opinions. PJ said there was a pretty big wall for the development committee to climb over right from the start and was why TB and the others had probably resigned.

SS confirmed no one had forced TB to resign and was sad he had gone. TB & JB were such a big part of the vhall committee and Terry would be a huge loss.

Neil Mundell Phipps wants to make sure that it is a benefit to the community and the development committee need to sell the ideas to the parishioners.

Helen Ford thought the idea of the hall being used as a "hub", meeting and coffee room etc would not be a good idea as the village is too small and does not think it would be used in that way. Also she loves the hall for doing the fairs, functions, church and would like to see it rebuilt like for like. Would like to see more events put on.

Jane Brignall did respond to Helens comment that she would like to see the hall rebuilt like for like. JB replied that the present layout of the hall did not give us the much needed storage and a rebuild would be covered under new building regulations for a public building and the disability act which would require certain aspect to be included in the design as covered at the presentation i.e. more toilets, disabled facilities, fire doors to name a few. It therefore would not be possible to build like for like. In addition at the presentation to the parish council in December, the point was made they wanted it to be interactive and repeatedly asked for suggestion and/or comments regarding the design and materials to ensure it was sympathetic to the surroundings. No comments or suggestions were received.

Sara Hunter-Dodds (New committee member) had listened and read all the documents for the projects and understands everyone's different views.

Glenn Ford (New committee member) would probably like to see something done but to listen to what people have to say and to discuss the different views to be able to do something going forwards. He does not see the panic to sort the hall as it is now (thanks to grants) financially secure and to possibly use some of the money as a spring board to start to move the project forward.

Jane Brignall confirmed that we may not have a functioning hall in 10 years time if we do nothing about solving the issues with the building.

Erica Berry (New committee member) hears what everyone has said about the project and will give her time and help. She feels that the original proposal was too big and not in keeping with the village and can appreciate everyone's opinion.

Lisa Smith wants to rebuild but not on such a huge scale, having seen all the structural reports etc the vhall has a certain amount of time before it will not be fit for purpose so will need to start the project moving forward soon and not waiting until it is too late and we have to close the vhall with no idea of when it would reopen.

SS confirmed that the VHC will meet to discuss and try to agree a plan of how to take the project forward.

JB said that Acre produce a guide to what it costs to rebuild a village hall and with new building regulations it would be in the region of £400K.

JP voiced that the project needs a leader to be able to take it forward.

SS will invite the parish council to have their say once the vhall committee have given their opinions at a future meeting to solely discuss the project.

NV confirmed that to get to the planning and pre application stage the vhall would need around £20-£25K.

It was mentioned that we would need a lot more people to get involved, more enthusiasm, labour and help with functions etc.

NMP suggested that a weekend meeting may be more appropriate to give the people of the village who are working during the week the opportunity to attend and contribute.

CS thought we should start to plan how to raise funds etc and to get the ball rolling as soon as possible.

SS asked everyone at the meeting whether we could rely on their support for future events or getting involved with the project. Everyone present confirmed they would be happy to help in some way.

Date of the next meeting - TBA

The meeting ended at 8.15pm