

HOTV Annual Members' Meeting minutes | Draft

The Village Hall, 27 September 2021, 7:30pm

Present: Graham Gleed (Chair), Mike Blair (Vice-Chair), David Crabbe (Treasurer), Nick Sloan (Secretary), John Davison, Chris Reah and about 35 others

[Apologies from Veronica Andrews, Graham and Jenny Farrington, Stuart Mark, Ian Upshall, Heather Venn, and Jane White]

- 1.1 GG welcomes everyone to our second Annual Member's Meeting.
- 2.1 The minutes [published on the website as Report of first AMM] are approved.
- 2.2 GG suggests that we should adopt the practice of the VH committee in holding an informal follow-up meeting to address any issues arising from the annual meeting. The date of this meeting will be announced.
- 3.1 GG delivers his **Chairman's Report** ([link](#)).
- 4.1 DC Delivers his **Treasurer's Report** ([link](#)).
- 5.1 [The approval of the Treasurer's Report, proposed by GG and seconded by NS, is unanimously agreed.](#)
- 5.2 GG proposes (JD seconds) that we exercise our right as a CBS to waiver the requirement for a full external audit for the 2021/22 financial year. This is something we have to decide formally each year. [Unanimously approved.](#)
- 5.3 GG proposes (DC seconds) that we retain AC Mole as our accountants. [Unanimously approved.](#)

Election of Management Committee

- 6.1 GG: there are three new candidates for for MC, plus MB who, according to the Rules, is up for re-election. CR is standing down, so we have four candidates for three places. We feel that it makes sense to extend the MC to eight rather than reject willing talent. We have invited the Members to vote on this via a paper ballot. NS reports that 21.5% of Members have voted, of whom 90% voted in favour of the change. [This can therefore be considered approved.](#)
- 6.2 GG: we therefore welcome Simon Dauncey, Paul Fielding and Ann Woods to the MC. GG also thanks Chris Reah for his considerable help and support, particularly in the early stages of the project when his common sense was invaluable. All concur.
- 6.3 In answer to a question from Liz Hembrow, NS says that our Rules limit the MC to between 3 and 12 members, but we are free to agree any number within these constraints.

Questions from Members

- 7.1 Liz Bennett proposes that we acknowledge not only the quantity but the quality of work performed by volunteers, all of whom have worked on the building as though it was their own home. All concur.
- 7.2 Martin Keswick asks what the next steps are in terms of food. GG says there is a little left to do in the kitchen, which can then be used by existing staff. The main issue is to find someone to join the team as a chef, which is very difficult in current circumstances. There is one potential candidate, but whether or not he proves willing,

we will be providing food as soon as someone suitable becomes available. JD points out that the King Alfred is also struggling to get staff.

- 7.3 Tom Stobie, "speaking as an experienced shelf-stacker", says that it is very warm in both the stock-room and the shop. MB confirms that excess heat is still a problem. Carolyn says that the shop temperature is often 30° on opening in the morning. JD proposes a meeting next week to consider further remedies, possibly including air conditioning.
- 7.4 John Hembrow queries £9K listed in the accounts for accountancy fees. DC and GG explain that this high figure is largely due to the exceptional complexities associated with the first year of trading.
- 7.5 Paul Fielding asks whether we should be seeking feedback or advice from our lenders on the basis of the first year's trading. Would external opinions be valuable? Statutory accounts will be sent to existing lenders and grant providers. They will also be publicly available on the FCA mutuals portal. GG agrees that perhaps we should invite assessments. Plunkett have, very gratifyingly, used us as an example of "how to do it right".
- 7.6 John Attwood asks what plans there are for providing facilities for young people. GG says that while we are determined to fulfil this promise, the means are unclear. Helen Gittins has referred him to an organisation with experience in this area, and we are planning to invite young people to an evening where they can give their own views. There is also a suggestion that we should seek advice from the Scouts.
- 7.7 MB mentions the Somerset Medal that has been awarded to HOTV for its contribution to society during the pandemic. This will be featured in the Oak.
- 7.8 JD proposes thanks to GG for his own massive contribution to HOTV. All concur.
- 7.9 GG would love to have offered food and drink at this point, but due to the significant incidence of Covid cases in the village it was reluctantly decided that we should not.

Meeting closes 8:20 pm

[The next scheduled meeting to be announced.](#)