

## **FRIENDS OF HORSPATH**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 at 8.00pm in the Horspath Community Hub**

|                   |            |   |   |
|-------------------|------------|---|---|
| <b>PRESENT:</b>   | Trustees:  | Mrs Sheila Frankum (Chair)<br>Mrs Anna Radcliffe<br>Mr Lawrence Brown<br>Mrs Judith Kent (Minutes)  | Mrs Sally Humphrey<br>Mrs Rebecca Brown<br>Mr Peter Ewart<br>Mr Ray Jackson   |
|                   | Villagers: | Mrs Sylvia Quartly<br>Mr Don Gibbs<br>Mrs Mary Byrne<br>Mrs Janice Marshall<br>Mrs Gill Gray<br>Mrs Rosemary Goss<br>Mrs Christine Surman<br>Mr Neville Buckett<br>Mrs Annette Miller | Mrs Sheila Dandridge<br>Mrs Maureen Lowe<br>Mr Frank Byrne<br>Mrs Rachel Mullins<br>Mr Donald Gray<br>Mr Chris Goss<br>Mr Paul Surman<br>Mr John Gray<br>Mr Martin Harris |
| <b>APOLOGIES:</b> |            | Mrs Margaret Drew<br>Mrs Carol Cuthbert   | Mr Chris Drew<br>Mrs Christine Donnelly   |

#### **1.0 WELCOME**

Sheila Frankum welcomed everybody and hoped they had enjoyed the photographs from our Opening Ceremony. She thanked everybody for coming.

#### **2.0 MINUTES FROM THE 2015 AGM**

These were not discussed.

#### **3.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Sheila reported that this is the third AGM and we have achieved quite a lot in that time. This time last year refurbishments were under way. From that time to now an awful lot of work has been done. Horspath has turned out to be a very good community. In front of you there is an agenda. I will give an overall view and then everybody will give their own accounts.

We really had a good celebration in April. Since last January the Hub has been hired a lot for functions. The energy rating has gone up from A to C, which will save our energy bills and our planet. Classes and activities have continued to grow. However, we need new initiatives from the villagers. Fund raising events, such as Produce Markets, are popular. Over the past year, Bill Heine gave a talk, there was a walk on New Year's Day, our Grand Draw raised money and a grant from Doris Field has enabled us to do quite a lot. We have purchased a

large shed for storing extra equipment and we can enjoy the small room for other activities. With so much voluntary help, we are going from strength to strength.

A big Thank You to all the Trustees, but there are some extra people who have helped with securing book cases, cleaning, gardening and odd jobs. Thank you to Gill and Donald Gray, Chris and Margaret Drew, Chris and Rosemary Goss. Looking to the future, we do have a big problem being in a village with no bus service. However, I hope that villagers will use this facility to come and meet people and that the Community Hub will help people in the village feel less isolated. One of the big concerns we always have is that we still have loans to pay back. It is proving quite viable, but it is always our concern.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL REPORT** **(See Appendix 1)**

We set up the charity and bank account in May 2013 and put forward our bid in July 2013. We did not purchase the building until September 2013 and we did not actually start using the building until March 2014. Because we set up our bank account in May, our yearly accounts are always from May to the following May.

The accounts this evening are from May 2015-May 2016

##### **Incoming Resources:**

|                          |                  |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Donations:               | 8,117.00         |
| Grants and Fund Raising: | 18,120.00        |
| Hall Hire:               | 6,273.00         |
| <b>Total:</b>            | <b>32,514.00</b> |

##### **Resources Expended:**

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Charitable Activities including Fund Raising Expenses: | 145.00           |
| Energy and Water:                                      | 944.00           |
| Property Maintenance (Refurbishment):                  | 21,228.00        |
| Insurance:   | 531.00           |
| Subscriptions:   | 75.00            |
| Licences:  | 70.00            |
| Advert/Promotion Sundry Expenses:                      | 163.00           |
| Depreciation of Fixtures and Fittings:                 | 1,141.00         |
| Professional Fees:                                     | 1,230.00         |
| <b>Total:</b>  | <b>27,147.00</b> |

However, we do still have outstanding loans to pay back.

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Our assets (the building) at present are: | 318,846.00 |
| Cash at Bank:                             | 20,555.00  |
| Our Yearly ACRE Loan:                     | 2,694.00   |
| We have outstanding loans of £130,000.    |            |

The running of the Hub is looking after itself. The important aspect is to restructure and repay the loans, which is being worked on.

We have contributed £280 to MacMillan and £85 to Children in Need this year.

## **5.0 CLASSES, CLUBS AND EVENTS/SPECIAL YOUTH GROUP**

Sally Humphrey thanked Heather Palmer for all her help booking all the classes and activities that take place at the Hub and keeping the website calendar always up-to-date. She is the most efficient web master you can imagine.

### **5.1 Creative Writing Group**

Sally produced a list of Activities for Autumn 2016. She said there was one new activity that was not listed; the Creative Writing Group. Paul Walton is the tutor and it is a big success. There are six writers, some completely new to writing and some with experience. They are looking forward to carrying on with two more sessions in the new year.

### **5.2 Walking Group**

Sarah Turner started a Walking Group and hopefully, when the weather gets better, a few more people would like to join her for some interesting walks.

### **5.3 Dynamix Dance Academy**

The Dynamix Dance Academy will be having another class on Tuesdays from 6.00-6.045pm. It's called Dynamix-up because Miss Sam will be introducing the students to contemporary, commercial, jazz and street dance and musical theatre. It's for children who are 7 plus.

### **5.4 Footfall Figures**

People attend the activities from Horspath and many of the surrounding villages, as well as Cowley.

|                    |      |   |      |
|--------------------|------|---|------|
| January to October | 2015 | - | 4425 |
|                    | 2016 | - | 5812 |

An additional 1887 people used the Hub between January and October 2016.

**We need your help** – if you would like something different or would like to start something new, please get in touch. There is a Sign-Up sheet on the table for you to leave your name.

#### **Some Thoughts People Have Mentioned:**

- More classes in the evenings, such as yoga.
- IT classes; the High Sheriff's Community Integration Award might be something we could use to help us bring broadband and IT into the Hub.

## 5.5 Other Activities and Events in the Hub this Year

### 5.5.1 Saturday Markets

We have had several Saturday Markets and we worked with the Allotment Society to put on The Village Show in September. There will be another Christmas Market on 10<sup>th</sup> December with many gift ideas and, of course, Father Christmas.

### 5.5.2 Children's Birthday Parties

These are very popular, together with Christening Parties, Anniversary Parties, Wedding Parties and Funeral Wakes. Mums who are waiting while their children are dancing class often say, "My daughter would like to have her birthday party here".

### 5.5.3 Horspath Organisations

Organisations such as **Shotover Wildlife** and **The Oxford School of Upholstery**, which is based in Gidley Way, have been holding meetings and workshops and even exams here.

**Village Meetings**, such as the one to inform people about the bus service, have been held here.

**St. Giles Church** has held Taize Prayer Meetings every month, Cluster Group Meetings and other events at the Hub. The Bell Ringers have had get togethers here and the Church has had a get together to say thank you to their tea helpers.

**The Oxford Bridge Club** has held a bridge competition here and is planning on having quite a few more events next year.

**The Oxfordshire Craft Guild** held their Arts Week Exhibition here and have already booked it for next year.

Sophie Grigson's well known "**Sophie's Cookery School**" have had several cooking sessions in the Hub kitchen and hall.

Nick Jones of **Wheatley Productions** held a rehearsal at the Hub.

There have been **Yoga Retreats**, a couple practicing their dance routine for a competition – the list is almost endless ...

And two local ladies, Eleanor Hatchett and Jo Emmerson have started a business called "**Naturally Sweet**" with delicious, healthy, vegetarian food which is beautifully presented. Their **Sunday Breakfast Cafes** have become very popular. They had a "Halloween Cookery" session with children and will have a "Christmas Decorations Workshop" in December.

## 5.6 Coffee Mornings

Finally, there are the Friday Coffee Mornings, where so many people join in, meet up with a friend, make new friends and use the Post Office at the same time.

## 5.7 Summary

All in all, it's been a good year with lots going on. There can be more things happening if you are willing to make suggestions and to get involved. The Hub is a facility for the use of the entire village and people will benefit as more and more become involved in whatever way they wish.

## 6.0 FUTURE ACTIVITIES AND GRANTS

Rebecca Brown reported that we were granted of £75,000 from WREN Landfill Services for the renovation of the building and we raised money as well with other donations. We have received two grants since then. There is a very small organisation, Doris Field, based at a Solicitors in Oxford. Doris Field left a legacy for individuals or groups. She gave us £1,000 for the cooker and we applied again this year for the garden shed. We received a grant of £4,500 from the Stone Pit Charity and that will pay in part for the driveway. We are looking at options to repay loans.

On the front of the building there are various commemorative stones where the writing is almost erased. We want to repair and restore them. One of the things we are going to apply for in the spring is an award from the Oxford Preservation Society. The awards are announced about now. It will not bring in money, but it will bring publicity and prestige. We will fall into the Conservation category.

There is an award coming up in the next two weeks called the High Sheriff Award. They will grant £3,000 to community groups focussed on doing work on integration. I think it is about community groups integrating the young and the old, e.g. providing broadband in the building to do more work with computers or computer classes.

## 7.0 POST OFFICE

Judy Kent said that the Post Office at the Hub has been open for two years now and continues to thrive. The fact that the Post Office and the Cafe are open at the same time has proved to be mutually beneficial.

The footfall has increased since last year. The total for the year from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 was 1,652, the highest being 83 on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and the lowest was 21 on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Judy said she only started keeping records of the footfall from May 2015, but for the six months from 1<sup>st</sup> May - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015 there were 731 customers and for the same period in 2016 there were 764 customers, an increase of 33. From another source, the number of customers from January to October 2015 was 1,142 and for the same period in 2016 there were 1,306; an increase of 164. Not bad considering we are open for only three hours a week.

During the past year, there have been 61 home shopping returns, 1,055 1<sup>st</sup> class stamps were sold and there was £2,211.93 worth of postage. There were 820 withdrawals from bank accounts, the majority of which were pensions.

Judy looks forward to going into our third year and hopes that you will continue to support the Post Office. Please note that Christmas stamps are on sale now and that we are open on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December this year.

## **8.0 COMMUNITY CAFE**

Anna Radcliffe said we have now had a regular coffee morning on a Friday for over two years and it is a bustling, happy community get-together. We hope that the people of Horspath and surrounding areas feel listened to and cared for when they pop into the cafe. We do really care about you all. Of course, the Post Office being there enhances the attraction of the Hub on a Friday morning and we can meet an even greater group of people. We serve coffee or tea and homemade cakes at a low price because we want people to be able to come and partake of all we have on offer. Our group of volunteers do a wonderful job frantically trying to keep up with demand. A very big Thank You to them for being such a friendly front-of-house and for managing the idiosyncrasies of the coffee machines with a smile.

Some people come to the cafe nearly every week, others pop in when they are passing or when they are able. One Friday a lady came to the Post Office, had coffee and cake and was able to take home a bag of narcissi bulbs which had been kindly donated by a local farmer. She said: "Ooh this is the best place in the world". And our aim and dream are that exactly. A rewarding experience for everyone who comes through our doors.

We have between 40 and 60 people most Fridays and we are constantly trying to improve the quality of what we offer.

This year we have held two Fridays where the proceeds have gone to charity; MacMillan Cancer Relief and Children in Need.

The Friday cafe welcomes you. We couldn't do it without you.

## **9.0 FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

### **9.1 Maintenance**

Ray Jackson said that next year's project is to get the drive done. All the renovation we had done was given to local artisans where we could. That means we put £70,000 back into the community.

### **9.2 St. Giles Church**

Sheila said that St Giles is still very much part of what goes on. Agape Supper was held here, when the Cuddesdon and Garsington groups joined us and want to come again next year.

Taize meet here on the first Sunday of the month.

### **9.3 Computer Classes**

Sheila Dandridge would like computer lessons. Sheila Frankum said we do need to look into installing broadband. Students could learn how to e-mail, how to shop online now that there will be no bus service. She said she had heard on the radio of a system whereby the young mentor the old and vice versa.

Rosemary Goss said she would be willing to do some teaching.

#### **9.4 The Little Room**

Sheila said that now the little room had been cleared, we plan to display Brian Lowe's old photographs of Horspath.

#### **9.5 Film Club**

Maureen Lowe enquired about progress on the Film Club. Sheila Frankum said it had come to a full stop because of the cost of equipment. Again, it is the lack of a bus service and choosing films that appeal to many people would be difficult. What we do need are some people to help progress it further. They are popping up in other villages. Maureen suggested sharing equipment with other clubs.

#### **10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **10.1 Bridge Lessons**

Ray Jackson reported that Kathy has volunteered to teach bridge, but there are not enough people.

##### **10.2 Christmas Market**

The Christmas Market is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30am – 12.00pm and the cafe will be open.

#### **11.0 DATE OF NEXT AGM IN 2017**

The next AGM will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm at the Horspath Hub.