



Yaxham Village Amenities Association
Minutes from Annual General Meeting
Monday 4th April 2022

1. Present:

Chris Couves – Parish Council / YVAA link
Louise Dye – YVAA Trustee (Minute Taker),
Steve Goldsmith – YVAA Trustee, Caretaker & Yaxham Village CIC
Karly Gray – YVAA Trustee
Bob Gust – YVAA Trustee
Trudy Gust – YVAA Trustee, Treasurer
Lorraine Varney – YVAA Trustee
Lucy Vincent – YVAA Trustee
Jacqueline Wood – YVAA Trustee

Julie Couves, Melissa Ford, Peter Lowings, Paul Phillips, Rev. Sally Thurgill, Tony Varney, Clarke Willis.

2. Apologies: Carlie Goldsmith (YVAA Bookings Manager)

3. Notes from 2021 AGM – approved as an accurate account of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising:

- Chair – position is still outstanding, current Trustees working together to cover the role.
- Hall improvements – Redecoration complete, Toilet sink Taps replaced, Window replacement plan underway and emergency access driveway maintenance planned for May 7th. BG to contact Breckland council re “road plannings” to aid repairs, CW can access



mini diggers to support the maintenance works. LD has offered support for refreshments via the community café team.

- Jubilee Garden – Peter Cook still volunteering to maintain the garden. Positive feedback has been received by passers-by.

5. General report from the Trustees

Only six months after the delayed 2020 AGM, we are pleased to report that things are looking up at Yaxham Village Hall. Regular bookings have increased, as well as bookings for parties, many of which are for children.

At last year's AGM we were delighted to welcome two new trustees – Lorraine Varney and Jacquie Wood. Since then, Karly Grey and Bob Gust have also become trustees. We now have a great team of nine trustees who work together well.

We inherited a schedule of charges for hire of the hall from the previous Bookings Secretary that doesn't work well now. Previously, discounts had been offered to some who committed to regular bookings, meaning one or two were charged less than others, which didn't seem right to us. We are aware that this 'levelling up' may not be popular, but feel it is important. In addition, we have removed the discounted fee for bookings made by people who live in Yaxham, as many bookings were made on behalf of friends or groups that are not based in the village. Given the anticipated large increase in fuel prices, we may have to increase hire charges, but will do our best not to.

We held the first, YVAA run, bingo session in January, which was extremely successful. The next session will take place on Saturday 9th April, when we are hoping for a 'full house'. We are now able to get back to regular quizzes and are planning monthly sessions in the community room.

Some events are held with the key aim of bringing the community together, examples are the twice monthly community café, and the planned event for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 5th June.

Although Covid restrictions have been lifted, we continue to allocate 15 minutes before and after each booking to enable cleaning to be carried out and to allow time for groups to vacate the hall prior to the next activity. Sadly, this allowance has occasionally been abused, with the activity of the hirer continuing beyond the allotted time. We are trying to eliminate this practice.



As will be seen from the accounts, we ended the year in a sound financial position, which encouraged us to arrange for windows that have deteriorated to be replaced; the work will be done during this summer. We are hoping that most of the work can be carried out during weekends when there are no bookings.

We are currently in the process of updating mandatory policies that are required for organisations such as ours. Once in place, we will be in a good position to make grant applications for funds to make further improvements.

TG

6. Treasurer's Report

As can be seen from the accounts, the bank balance on 31st December 2021 was in a healthier state than the previous year. Village lets increased, as has income from the Community Café.

The cost of improving and running the website also increased, but most new bookings are made through this route and keeping it up to date is essential. An increase in hire costs has been mentioned in Carlie's report for bookings and was also referred to in the general report.

As we are all aware, the cost of utilities will be increasing enormously, and we must ensure that our income covers expenses. The cost of insurance for the hall alone has increased by £150.

Replacement of the windows, as previously mentioned, is an element of general improvement that we must keep on top of to ensure the hall is well-maintained, warm and will continue to be an attractive venue for parties and functions.

Thanks go to all who contribute to activities and events that raise funds to keep this facility running. TG

7. Community Café – update

The community café is still running on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month, with the regular addition of 2 more volunteers we have been able to secure enough help to keep the café opening from 10am to approximately 12/12:30.

We have several regular attendees and some new faces have started to join too. We will not be increasing prices at the café during 2022 as we feel it's important to maintain this opportunity for the local community to meet and



enjoy a very reasonable serving of morning coffee and food. We are ever grateful to all our volunteers who donate the homemade food we sell.

Due to the Craft and produce fair being organised this year we will only be organising a Christmas craft fair this year.

Bingo and quiz nights have been a success and a regular Sunday evening charity quiz will commence from April.

8. Community Car Scheme – update

A brief report to say that the Community Car Scheme continues, although has not been used as much since Covid hit. This is just as well, as we have fewer drivers now. Caroline Thorpe and I administer the scheme and, in 2021, organised transport for 71 journeys, the majority of which were to Mattishall Surgery or the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital. We have given lifts to 15 different people from the village. Although there appears to be a reduced need now for the scheme, it is nonetheless a valuable facility, and we know that it is much valued by those who use it. TG

9. Bookings Report

Since the last AGM in September 2021 understandably everyone was still very cautious, but I am glad to report the Hall is back open; regular bookings have resumed, and we have new long-term bookings. We welcomed a new Yoga class every Thursday and, once a month, also have Dereham Parkinson's Support Group, Little City, Downtown Soul and other regular meetings. Since having the hall refurbished, it has become more popular for weddings and many private parties - we have had great feedback. The hall is now having regular Quiz and Bingo nights that have been a great success and it is lovely to see the community coming back together. Unfortunately, due to increase in utility bills we have had to increase hire charges but I'm happy to share that all our regular users are going to continue to stay. The Hall is booked out for an average of 17 sessions a week and we are still getting many enquires. I think after a rough two years the hall is looking very positive and I'm hoping this will continue for the rest of the year. Sent by CG.



10. Yaxham Village CIC (Community Interest Company) –

As most of you know by now the CIC was set up as a trading arm of the YVAA to comply with the charity commission rules around alcohol sales.

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we have missed out on having a Winter pool and darts team but hopefully there is a possibility of summer teams this year.

Due to people being worried about gatherings, we have been restricted to a god send of the three football teams to enable us to trade and we are on target to make a profit.

Over the Christmas period we had 3 large parties cancel including the YVAAs New Year's Eve Disco and 2 football matches due to covid issues.

This had an impact on drink losses as these were last minute cancellations.

We have a few more parties booked now over the summer helping with the closed season of the football teams.

Also over the summer months we will be looking to try and establish a regular Saturday night opening and hopefully get support from the village residents.

With everything in mind the way covid has had a massive impact on hospitality, and the cost of living dramatically increasing making a small profit would be a big plus for us and a more stable year ahead.

Our end of year is the 9th of May where any profits will be handed back to the YVAA.

11. Election of Officers / Trustees (up to 13 members)

Lucy Vincent chose to resign from the trustee committee, we are all very sad to see her leaving the team, with over 12 years' experience she has been a valuable member of the team.

All other trustees were happy to remain in their current positions.

12. Any other business (in relation to the AGM) – nothing raised.

13. Platinum Jubilee Picnic – JC presented the outline plan for the celebration to be held on Yaxham playing field on Sunday 5th June. TG & JC are preparing posters to advertise the event. Attendees will be asked to bring their own pic-nic but the bar will be open with a Pimms cocktail tent and non-alcoholic mocktail alternative also on sale. An Ice cream van has been arranged and family games are being organised, with the aim to bring the community together. Volunteers to support on the day



have been requested to help run the games. Thanks to the Yaxham Parish Charity we have £500 donated towards the costs of decorating the hall and planning the event. Carlie Goldsmith has agreed to provide music and a local singer may also be attending for further entertainment. We are planning for a memento to be distributed to all children in attendance under the age of 14.

14. Play area extension – CC outlined a new development for the play area linked to Badger Homes development in the village. (SIO6 arrangement) Funds will be available to expand the play area with the addition of more play equipment. Approximately £15,000 will be available with a further £5,000 via a grant from Breckland Council. The extension will be to the south or east of the current site. Quotes are being sought and the project will again be led by the Parish Council.

TG raised a concern about the entrance being closer to the football pitch.

PP will use the village hall facebook page to advertise the additional equipment & future plans for expansion.

MF asked if there were any considerations for older children.

Within the next week there will be 2 spring rides added to the play area, which were funded from the previous redevelopment.

15. Any other business (general). – LD asked if there was a planned date to address the snapped branches on the leylandii trees at the back of the field, TG to chase the tree surgeons.

LD – asked if there was a confirmed end date for the coffee machine contract. – TG confirmed 17th April 2022 as the end of contract date, the contract will not be renewed as the costs outweighed any benefit of having the machine. SG raised that a small boiler behind the bar would be beneficial and that CIC funds could support that.

Next YVAA Trustee meeting:

16th May 2022 19.30 – YVH Community Room