

Linton Village Hall Management Committee
Registered charity number 520967
Annual General Meeting 2022
22nd January 2022, 10 a.m, for 10.30 a.m.

1. Welcoming remarks and apologies	<p>Present: Carol Wood, Jane Reeves, Clair Hodgson, Liz Davies, Sally Boyland, Denise Pegrum, Ernst Zillekens,</p> <p>Apologies: Irene Tuttiett,</p> <p>Welcome to those attending: The meeting was attended by three persons</p>
2. Minutes of 2021 AGM held on 6th April 2021	The minutes were passed and signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters Arising	There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous AGM.
4. Chairman's Report	<p>4. Chairman's Report</p> <p>We report here on the year from November 2020 to October 2021 – and an unusual year it was, mainly spent hopping in and out of lockdowns. We began the year by going into the second national lockdown on 5 November 2020 and the hall relapsed into a state of limbo with those groups and classes that had returned to using the hall having to put their activities on hold once again. All indoor activities ceased and, being winter, very little was able to take place outside – apart from the final trace of the beech tree, the stump of the trunk, being removed at the end of November.</p> <p>The second lockdown ended on 2 December, but many of the user groups held off coming back as this date was so close to Christmas. However, we took the opportunity to hold a Christmas coffee morning on 12 December and together with St Mary's Church and Volt we were able to plan a Christmas community lunch that was held on 17 December. So with very short notice we did make the most of the brief reprieve - we decorated the hall, celebrated the Christmas season, and thoroughly enjoyed seeing folk again in the village hall.</p> <p>Unfortunately, 6th January saw the beginning of the third lockdown and this lasted until early March when a phased exit began. During January through to April the village hall again assisted The Alma by coordinating the home delivery service of the Wednesday Lunches and many thanks go to all of the drivers who responded so readily and kept this initiative going.</p> <p>March saw a relaxing of restrictions but these made little difference to the hall and it was not until Step 3 on 17 May that just a couple of our groups felt able to return, although the hall was used during this month as a polling station for the Police Commissioner's election (postponed from the year before).</p> <p>The further relaxing of restrictions planned for 21 June was delayed until 19 July when we did see the beginnings of a return to 'normal' and August saw a new hirer join our band of users – Jeni Howland now offers a very popular yoga class on Tuesday mornings. To celebrate the summer season whilst we could, and with help from St Mary's Church and Volt, we held a joint outside event on Sunday 22 August – a Vintage Afternoon Cream Tea - and were quite surprised by the overwhelming response. It was lovely to see so many of our friends and neighbours again, sitting in the sunshine and working their way through mountains of cake.</p> <p>September saw a few of our user groups eager to return to the hall to take up their activities - the Weavers, the Art Class, and Monday evening Pilates - whereas some found it more difficult to find the confidence to begin again and, in fact, are only now attempting to regroup. However, our hirers remain loyal to the hall and we are truly grateful to them all for their continued support.</p> <p>We were so very pleased to be invited to provide refreshments at the Summer Sessions, held in the grounds of The Alma Inn on Saturday 4 September, and with the support of many of our regular helpers we were able to provide delicious cakes and hot drinks all day long – thanks to Gemma and Dan for this opportunity and to all the cake bakers and teams of helpers that made this possible. It was a hugely enjoyable day that also raised funds for the village hall.</p>

Our September coffee morning was held in support of Macmillan Cancer and raised £215. Thanks again to everyone who helped us by donating cakes and their time on the day, and to everyone who came along to eat cake and drink coffee.

September saw the revival of the 100 Club – having been suspended due to door-to-door collections being inappropriate during the lockdowns. Many thanks to Denise Pegrum for having run the club for many years and huge thanks to Julie Houston for stepping into the role at this point and taking up this fundraising task.

The Community Lunch Club, run by the village hall, St Mary's and Volt and raising funds for these three charities, began again in October and will run until March - keeping an 'old favourite' activity going, providing an opportunity for friends and neighbours to meet and enjoy a lovely lunch.

Turning now to other things -

The committee, having discovered that the lease for the garden area had expired and needed to be renewed, decided to approach HDBF with an offer to purchase the land so that it could be used to the best advantage for community gatherings and fundraising events, not only for the village hall itself but for joint events to be held with St Mary's Church and Volt. The committee felt it was the best use of grant monies that had been received during the Covid pandemic and would protect the area for the future. HDBF has declined this offer on the grounds that:

“it would strongly prefer a lease, given the Diocese's long term interest in the area, including the possible future need for a churchyard extension.”

So the committee is currently in negotiations with HDBF regarding the renewal of the lease, but until this is concluded we are unable to make any plans or make any decisions regarding the garden area.

The management of our website has recently been taken over by Ian Hobson and we wish to thank him for his generous offer to take on this task, and to thank Tina Tupper for all her time and support over the past several years, which saw continuing and developing this project which had been started by Jim Stewart by setting up the website.

We have undertaken to give some thought to the status of the village hall management committee's registration with the Charity Commission, with a view to achieving greater personal protection for committee members. This will entail an increased level of accountancy and filing of statutory reports, but offers opportunities and protection not available to us as an unincorporated body.

We continue to strive to keep up with statutory demands and to meet all Health & Safety requirements in order to ensure that the hall remains a safe and sound area for those who wish to use it and that it is able to fulfil the purpose for which it is intended. That is:

‘For the use of the inhabitants of Linton and the neighbourhood and, in particular, use for meetings, lectures, classes and other forms of recreational and leisure time occupations with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants’.

One area that we need to get on top of and fully understand is that of 'Safeguarding'. There is now an obligation on the committee to take measures to ensure the protection and safety of those who use the hall by safeguarding against exploitation and abuse. Ray Wood has been working on our policy in this respect and will be able to take us some way towards getting this sorted but if there is anyone who already has an understanding of this safety issue and can offer help and advice, then do please let us know.

It think it is true to say that this has been a year when we have not been able to achieve the aims and goals that we had in mind. The pandemic continues to dominate, although perhaps now we are reaching a point where we can maintain a constant level of defence rather than skipping in and out of differing levels of restrictions. Hopefully we will soon be able to pick up the threads of normal life and progress some of the projects that we had planned to explore, such as installing wi-fi in the hall and developing a more eco-friendly venue. So perhaps, and hopefully, there will be more to report on at next year's AGM.

	<p>Looking ahead, we have two wonderful opportunities to plan for this coming summer – events that we hope to make the most of. The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee weekend begins with a bank holiday on Coronation Day (Thursday 2 June) with celebrations continuing over the weekend, culminating on Sunday 5 June when it is planned that street parties should be held throughout the nation. We hope to be able to work with Volt and St Mary’s in order to bring as many people together to celebrate, making it a truly memorable village event. And the Linton Music Festival is scheduled to take place the following month – Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd July. The village hall has been invited to serve breakfasts for this event in the village hall and, all being well, the Cake Tent will again be a feature at the festival site itself. We do so hope that this is just two events that we are aware of and that there may be more we can do this coming year.</p> <p>As always, a thank you from me to my fellow committee members for their constant help, support and input into the management of the hall. We are, however, aware of our limitations and are aware that there are areas where we could do with a helping hand. The routine supervision of Maintenance issues, Health & Safety matters and Safeguarding spring to mind. If there is anyone who has time to spare and feels they could offer some skill or knowledge in any of these areas then do please let us know. It need not mean joining us as a full committee member, having to participate in all committee meetings and the decision making process if that seems too much of a commitment, but simply offering help in specific areas or with particular projects as a co-opted member, keeping the committee up to date with periodic reports. Please speak to us if you can think of any ways in which you might be able to help.</p> <p>Turning now to other thanks: to our team of helpers who we rely on to bake, make, create, man, provide, repair, cheer on, hug, support and generally keep us going. You are brilliant! Thank you to our user groups for the income they provide and for the range of activities they offer to the community. Thank you to those who constantly support our events and to everyone who contributes to the running of the village hall. And thank you to all those who kept the hall going in the past - I am conscious of the efforts made to establish the hall as a community asset and can really appreciate the time and effort it took back then to get it up and running. I believe it continues to provide a spotlight on village life and whilst preserving its ties to the past, I feel we should be able to respond to the challenges that will help secure its future. In a rapidly changing world we need to be able to look ahead, explore possibilities and embrace those opportunities that will strengthen the role of the village hall and keep it relevant within village life. So please do speak to us about any ideas or thoughts you may have that we might be able to take forward together.</p>
<p>5. Secretary’s Report</p>	<p>There have been no changes to the composition of the Linton Hall Management Committee since April 2021.</p> <p>Chairman and Booking Contact: Carol Wood Treasurer: Jane Reeves Secretary and Parochial Parish Council and History Society Representative: Ernst Zillekens Media, Communications and Event Coordinator: Clair Hodgson Weavers Group: Liz Davies WI: Irene Tuttiett Coopted Members: Sally Boyland and Denise Pegrum</p> <p>Meetings: Regular meetings were held following the last AGM on :</p> <p>6th April 2021 on Zoom: 11th May 6th July 7th September 24th November</p>

	<p>Charitable status: We remain a registered charity and an annual report is submitted to the Charity Commission.</p>
<p>6. Treasurer's report</p>	<p>Accounts for y/e 31/10/2021</p> <p>Profit and Loss Account Total income was £21,066 which was very healthy and considerably up on previous years despite less hall hire and fundraising due to the pandemic. This was mainly due to the level of government support grants we received over the financial year (over £18,000).</p> <p>Total expenditure was down on last year due to less spent on maintenance and repairs, licences etc. Miscellaneous expenditure was higher due to the tree stump removal costs. Secretary and office were up significantly on last year due to two payments for the website, one in advance and one in arrears, falling under one year.</p> <p>Net income was £15,310 which was essentially £6,000 up on last year.</p> <p>Balance sheet Therefore, total assets are standing at £65,328. However, I have accounted for the fact that £1,200 was deposited within this year's accounts for the 100 Club but will relate to the next financial year and this reduces our total assets to £64,128.</p> <p>This year I am suggesting we transfer just over £15,000 from the general reserves to the property refurbishment fund to pay for possible energy conservation improvements as part of the energy audit we had undertaken. We will still have a similar level in general reserves as the previous year at £23,144 and these monies could be kept for non-refurbishment type projects depending on the committee's decisions going forwards.</p>
<p>7. Election of Officers and reappointment of the other members of the Village Hall Management Committee</p>	<p>The Chairman informed the meeting that the officers, ie, the Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary as well as the other current members of the committee had agreed to serve for another year. Their reappointment was proposed by Julie Houston and seconded by Charlotte Newton and passed unanimously by the meeting.</p>
<p>8. AOB</p>	<p>Clair Hodgson presented a slide show on events in the past year, which gave an excellent insight in what had still gone on in the Village Hall at a time of tight restriction and closures.</p> <p>Julie Houston proposed a formal vote of thanks for the work done by the members of the Village Hall Management Committee.</p> <p>Julie Houston enquired whether energy efficiency measures were a legal requirement to be implemented in the Hall. Jane Reeves responded to this question and pointed out that they were only a legal requirement if you successfully applied for grants. The award of a grant contained a particular time frame for its implementation. Any application for a grant had to contain proof that you were making energy savings.</p> <p>Some possible areas for improvement or development were mentioned such as cavity wall insulation for the kitchen area or replacement of existing lighting bulbs with LED bulbs or the installation of an electric charging point in the car park.</p>