

AGM – 24 October 2022

1. Welcome and Introductions

Good evening and thank you for coming.

I'd like to welcome you to the 2nd Annual General Meeting of the Wolverley Memorial Charitable Trust.

I'm pleased to say that we are now back to a normal timetable for the reporting of the 2021 year, following our "Covid catch up" AGM for the 2019 and 2020 years which we held in March.

Although even this AGM was postponed for a month due to the original date clashing with the Queen's funeral.

I think you will agree that the Hall is looking a bit different than we last met in March.

I'll say more about the recent renovations later.

This meeting is a meeting of the Charity Trustees, held in public for the residents of Wolverley.

This Annual General Meeting reports on the activities and financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Copies of tonight's Agenda are on your chairs.

To help us get through the business, I would be grateful if you hold any questions until the end of the meeting.

We are aiming to finish no later than 9.00pm but we will allow plenty of time under agenda item 10 for questions from Wolverley residents.

2. Approval of minutes

Firstly, we need to formally approve the minutes of the 2019/2020 Annual General Meeting, held on 28th March 2022, which were ratified by the Trustees at their meeting on 25th April 2022.

Are the Trustees happy to formally approve them? **APPROVED**

A copy of the minutes is available if anyone wants to see them

3. Annual Report for 2021

I will now report on the Charity's activities during 2021

The purpose of the Charity has not changed since the original 1961 foundation agreement.

That can be summarised as:

- the provision of village hall and recreation facilities, for the benefit of the residents of Wolverley and
- to retain the Hall as a memorial for those from Wolverley who died in the service of their country

The main activities in delivering those charitable objects continue to be:

- The provision of the Hall and grounds for sport, the arts and recreation, and for hire by local residents for functions and parties.
- The provision of a children's play area.
- The sub-letting of parts of the grounds for tennis, bowls and the village social club.
- Fundraising for the upkeep and maintenance of the charity's assets.

Whilst some of the Hall's normal activities and fundraising events were constrained by the last few months of Government imposed Covid restrictions at the beginning of the 2021 year; a lot was achieved.

The Charity was able to continue to make available all its facilities in "Covid secure" environments for the year.

This ensured the Hall, Children's Play Area and the Field stayed available for local residents. But this did result in additional costs being incurred, which were met by the Charity, with support from local and national Covid Grant funding.

I'm particularly pleased to report that we managed to keep the Children's Play Area open for all of the year. I'd like to thank the Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council again for its financial assistance with the additional disinfecting costs.

The majority of the sports and fitness classes (martial arts, yoga, pilates) continued in the Hall, albeit initially with reduced numbers. The impact of Covid also reduced the number of children's and adult parties and other private hires at the beginning of the year, but these returned to normal levels in the second half of 2021.

Before we move on to the Charity's performance against the objectives, we set for 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to repeat the "thankyous" that I gave in March to a number of longstanding Memorial Hall Committee members who retired over the last couple of years.

Firstly, to Peter Smith, who was President and acting Chairman of the Charity who retired in 2019 after 45 years' service

To Malcolm & Beryl Hazlewood who served as Vice Chairman and Treasurer respectively and were committee members for many years

To Jan Hodgson who was a committee member and volunteer also for many years.

And to Jo Hardwick who was the Charity's Secretary, committee member and active volunteer, who sadly passed away in October 2020

The Trustees have agreed to formally recognise their service with the presentation of gifts. We will announce a date for a presentation gathering soon – please look out for this on the Charity's website and Facebook page.

The Charity is heavily reliant on the work of Trustees, Committee Members and volunteers. Their contribution in man/ woman years is vital to the ongoing work of the Charity.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them in public.

As in previous years, I would also like to express the Charity's appreciation to TG Hardwicks for cutting the grass on the playing field, the Parish Council for its annual grant and the District Council for providing the Charity with total business rate relief.

All this helps in meeting the costs of maintaining the Hall, the Children's Play Area, the playing field and grounds.

So – what did we do in 2021?

- We continued to provide the existing facilities for the use of local residents,
- We had 3 successful Car Boot sales in the year and a Children's Funfair over 2 weekends in June and July – I'm pleased to say that the Children's Funfair has now become an annual event.
- And we finished the external refurbishment of the Hall, using funding obtained as a result of our successful grant applications.

A recurring theme in the minutes of previous Charity's Annual General Meetings has been the deterioration of the Hall - a timber framed building, built in the 1960s - and the increase in costs associated with its repair and maintenance.

The Trustees realised that the charity's own funds were going to be insufficient to meet the cost of the urgent refurbishments required to ensure that the Memorial Hall could stay open until the planned development of a new community facility incorporating all the activities on the site could take place through the Wolverley Memorial Project.

In February 2021 we were successful in our application to the Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Village Hall Improvement Grant for £14,049. The Grant scheme was part of a government backed venture to commemorate 100 years since the end of the first world war – and was to assist charities running village halls with capital improvements to their buildings

This was a competitive process and I understand that we were the only village hall in Worcestershire to receive a grant.

And then in September 2021` we were successful in securing our biggest grant to date - £70,950 from the National Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund.

This enabled us to take the next step in upgrading the Hall following the conversion of all the flat roofs to pitched roofs and the over-cladding of all the old roofs with fabricated metal sheeting.

It allowed us to complete the external cladding work to the sides of the Hall and replace the timber framed windows, entrance doors and disabled access doors.

The cost of contractors and new materials, funded by the grants, was supplemented by a group of volunteers all giving their time, labour and assorted skills for free.

As you have seen, the exterior of the building has been significantly upgraded and is now watertight and draught-free.

The Lottery Grant also provided funding towards the cost of the recent **internal** refurbishments which I will say more about later.

Together with the Grants of £51k received in the previous year, this means that the Charity has been successful in obtaining grants of £136k for the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those Grant funding organisations for their financial support.

I will now ask Michelle to report on the financial accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021.

4. Accounts for year ended 31 December 2021

See report from the Charity's Treasurer

We now come to the appointment of the Charity's Trustees.

The Charity has 2 groups of Trustees – Appointed and Elected Trustees

5. To note the appointed Trustees

Firstly, we are required to note the appointed Trustees.

The Constitution of the Charity allows for a maximum of 6 appointed Trustees. Those are the Trustees that are nominated by what are referred to as user bodies – that is organisations that are supportive of the Charity's objectives. Those individuals continue in office unless changed by the nominating organisation.

The current appointed Trustees are:

Bernard D'Arcy (Wolverley Sports and Social Club)

Andy Gould (Wolverley Village Players)

John Hart (Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council) and

Robert Lawrence (Wolverley Tennis).

Those Trustees are duly noted and will continue in office

6. The Election of elected Trustees

We now come to the election of those Trustees who are elected

The Constitution of the charity allows for a maximum of 7 elected Trustees

Elected Trustees who have agreed to continue and are recommended for re-election by the Charity Trustees are

Michelle Hire

Richard Millner and

Me (Graham Wallis)

Can I have your agreement to confirm their re-election - **AGREED**

We are always looking for people who feel they can contribute their time and skills to the Charity and may wish to join our group of volunteers or become a Trustee. If anyone is interested, please contact me or one of the other Trustees at the end of the meeting and we can explain the process.

We will now move on to Agenda item 7 - the appointment of the Independent Examiner for the Charity's accounts.

As a charitable body of our size, we are required to have the accounts examined by a suitably qualified person who is independent of the Charity.

7. The Appointment of the Independent Examiner for the Charity's Accounts

A.D. Palfreyman Accountancy and Taxation Ltd, Bewdley carried out this task for the 2021 accounts and the Trustees have appointed this company to carry out this service again for the 2022 financial year.

Thank you for your patience while we have gone through the formal business of the Charity's AGM and provided a look into the aims of the Charity in the future.

8. Forward Look

See separate report

9. Any Other Business notified in advance of the meeting

There was no other business notified in advance of the meeting so we can move straight on to questions.

10. Questions from Wolverley residents

It is now your opportunity to ask questions about anything you have heard tonight or any other issues relevant to the Charity.

We will try and answer your questions now but if we don't have all the information to give a full answer, we will take a note and get back to you as soon as possible.

Please give your name (and organisation or group, if your question is on their behalf) so we can make a record for the minutes

Thank you for your questions.

11. Close & Dates for diaries

Thank you for coming to the Annual General meeting, I hope you have found it interesting and informative.

Just before we finish, I have a few dates of forthcoming events which will take place in the Hall, which you may be interested in:

There will be a Christmas Handmade Craft Market on 26 November

And looking further forward, the Wolverley Village Players will be putting on their annual pantomime here in the last week of January 2023.

There will be other fundraising events organised for next year, including the monthly car boot sales throughout the Summer.

All the dates will be advertised on the Charity's website and Facebook page

Thank you again for coming

Hopefully we will see you again for the next year's Annual General Meeting. Have a safe journey home.

Graham Wallis

Chair of Trustees

24.10.22