

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2020

### **Minutes**

The meeting took place on Wednesday 23rd September. The principal matters covered are summarised as follows:

#### Chairman's Report

Prior to the introduction of nationwide restrictions by HM Government on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, designed to contain the Covid virus including the closure of Village Halls, the hall had been well used. Regular use of the hall up to this point included Pilates, Zumba (twice weekly), Ballet Fitness, Yoga and Gym Classes. Other regular users included the Bowls Club, Parish Council, Monthly Afternoon Teas and the Over 60's Club. Private bookings, including wedding receptions, have also continued at a good level in the current year. The use of the Lady Wardington Room for small business meetings continues to be poor, despite the investment made in the provision of superfast fibre broadband (Wi-Fi) and other enhancements to try to encourage more regular use of this facility.

Covid lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, and this has enabled the hall to be used for a few compliant events. The overall impact on revenues due to the lockdown has been more than offset by number of grants made available by HM Government (see Treasurers report for further details).

#### Trustees Report

The Trustees' future strategy for the Hall is unchanged as:

- To continue to provide an events/activities facility primarily for the Wardington community
- To develop hiring and usage of the Hall through 'word of mouth' communication, not costly advertising
- To maintain the Hall to a high standard and thus ensuring a competitive edge over similar local halls
- To maintain 'village' hiring rates as low as possible whilst maintaining the premium chargeable to non-village hirers.
- Expenditure from the Capital Account will be used during the fiscal year to improve the car parking facilities at the front of the hall.
- The hall curtilage is currently not registered with the Land Registry. This matter has now been addressed.

#### Treasurer's Report

Financially the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 was a further successful 12 months, with the following being the key points:

- Revenue including the hire of the hall amounted to £9,657.26 This was down on 2018/19 due to the impact of COVID.
- Operating expenditure was £7047.09 a decrease of £2,504.91 as compared with 2018/19 which was £9,552. This was due to a reduction in repair costs.
- The overall operating surplus was £2,610.17 an increase of £1077.17 compared to 2018/19 which was £1,533.
- A Covid Grant of £10,000 was secured in June 2021
- Finally on the Balance Sheet, the hall's assets at the end of the year were £12,237.65 compared to £10,224 at the end of the previous year

The full accounts can be viewed at <http://www.wardington.net/memorial-hall/>

#### Property Report

The overall condition of the hall remains good with no major defects.

#### Hall Activities Report

Although the use of the main hall continues to increase, and despite the investment made to enhance its capabilities as a meeting room, the Lady Wardington room is only occasional used, mainly by the Parish Council.

#### Election of Officers & Management Committee

Following his move from the village back in March, Paul Bimson has decided to stand down as Chair. Steve Mackenzie-Lawrie in addition to his Treasurer duties, will step into the role in an acting capacity, until a new Chair is appointed. Following his move from the village, James Wild has announced that he will be standing down from the committee. Due to work and family commitments, Harry Gordon-Finlayson has also decided to stand down from the committee.

The following were elected for the coming year: Steve Mackenzie-Lawrie (Acting Chairman & Treasurer), Bridget Elworthy, Anne Wilkins and Alison Baker.