

# **Annual General Meeting Rowney Green Village Hall Management Committee**

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Present:** Chris Gollings as chair.

**Trustees:** Louise Croxton, Mark Easter, Nan Fellows as treasurer, Andy Free and Sue Stevens. Minutes: Janet Corfield and Liz Ballard (outgoing minute taker).

**Others:** Annie Cowles (bookings), Tony Cowles (maintenance) and Will Savage (village fete).

**Community groups:** Pat and Colin Davies (horticultural society), Wayne Harris and Sue Walker (RGPs)

**Villagers:** Andy Ballard, Jenny Davies, Jean and Peter Dunbar, Andy Dunkers, Mike Fellows, Nigel Jealous, Brian Jones, Maggie Moore, Pete Jeffs and Richard Woodward.

**1. Apologies:** Sadie Dykes, Sandy Jenkinson, Tony Wallis(Park group)

**2. Minutes of last AGM: Proposed by Mike Fellows. Seconded by Will Savage.**

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Year ending 31/12/23**

As Chair of the Trustees I am pleased to report that the Hall and Park continue to be successful. Our finances continue to be healthy for both the Park and Hall. However, we have lost some groups and costs continue to increase. We will need to be diligent in our financial management to ensure our continued success. We have spent on improving the hall with our maintenance team continually working on these improvements.

Our community groups: Rowney Green Horticultural Society, Drama Clubs, Sassy Lassies, and ACE continue to use the hall.

The Goat and Trousers Community Bar and Coffee Shop are both well attended and we owe a big thanks to all the volunteers who work in these community activities.

We also have commercial groups such as Pilates, Riopedre Dance Group, Irish Dance, Toddlers Football and Adult Art Group.

We had our fireworks display, Fish and Chip Supper and Christmas Tree Light Up. It's great to see new faces attending these events. All these events depend on our volunteers and it would be great to see new people get involved.

We had our second summer fete on July 15th. Will Savage and his team of volunteers worked very hard to ensure a great day and to raise funds for Rowney Green Park.

Our maintenance team of Tony Cowles and Mark Coulson continue to maintain and improve the Hall and its surroundings. These individuals devote a huge amount of their time to this work, without which we would have to spend a great deal of money. I would like to record our thanks to them.

A big thankyou to Sadie Dykes and Annie Cowles for all their hard work running the hall booking system and invoicing our customers. Sadie Dykes is also the hall's auditor and I would like to thank her for her knowledge and efficiency in dealing with the accounts.

I would also like to thank Nan Fellows for her work as Treasurer and her diligence in administering the Hall's finances. Nan is to retire as Treasurer later in the year. We owe Nan a huge debt for her continued hard work. One of our existing trustees, Andy Free, has agreed to take over later in the year.

I would like to thank all of the trustees for their help and hard work over the year. A very important member of our team is Liz Ballard, the trustees' secretary who retires this year. We will miss her. I am delighted that Janet Corfield has agreed to replace Liz. The trustees look forward to Janet joining us.

Two years ago the trustees signed a fifteen-year lease with Alvechurch Parish Council for the management and maintenance of the Rowney Green Park. Tony Wallis, as trustee, has set up a management team and along with a great bunch of regular volunteers continue to do excellent work on improving the Park for the benefit of the Rowney Green community and others who visit the Park. They meet every Saturday morning and as well as working hard have an enjoyable social morning often with cake or hot dogs. They welcome new volunteers and also help with the regular mowing on our tractor mower.

It has been a tough year financially and we must ensure that we continue to strike a balance between serving the community and the ongoing financial stability of the hall.

#### **4. Treasurer's report.**

Copies of the income and expenditure account for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 were given out to the audience. (Copies on file).

Bank account balances at the end of 2023

Current - £25,136 (park funds at end of year £10,730)

Deposit - £52,846

TOTAL cash funds at end of 2023 - £77,982

Income overall has remained steady with a slight increase on hall lettings. The overall receipts are lower as in 2022 there was a substantial amount of grants received.

I will go through the income and expenditure account prepared by Sadie Dykes if you wish to refer to it.

#### **Income**

**Total receipts - £38,755**

#### **Hall**

Total receipts - £21,650

Lettings from Clubs and regular lets were slightly up and outside lettings remained stable. Fundraising receipts are from Lights up.

Donations are:

1. £3,025 from the G&T in addition to the rent the group pays.
2. Regular small donations paid by a couple of households.

#### **Park**

Total Receipts - £13,048

1. £563 – made up of £120 from Football lettings and £443 for other events
2. £3,559 from Fete
3. Donations made up from
  - £990 for orchard trees
  - £4,824 from Worcester County Council for the bench around the oak tree
  - £2,000 from Alvechurch Parish Council
  - £500 from Party in the Park
  - £60 from Honey sales
  - £552 as regular donations from 10 households only

## Costs

**Total costs for the year are £36,102.**

## Hall

Total - £24,123

I will just go through some of the higher costs.

1. Maintenance costs have risen considerably but included in this is £2,500 for 3 new outside doors and £1,500 for resurfacing the hall floor (please can groups take care of the new surface as you can see how expensive it now is to do this regular work). I am happy to report that we did not need to use our savings for these.
2. Events - £860 split into £560 for Lights Up which is higher than usual as we had to buy a new indoor tree and £300 for the band on Coronation night.
3. Gas and Electricity at £6,877 is slightly lower than the previous year most likely down to the weather. However we have been lucky to avoid the recent very high energy costs as we have been on a fixed contract at a price from before energy costs rose. We shall be on a new contract from the autumn so these costs will rise.
4. Fee & Licences costs have risen as the PRS/PPL fee has risen.

## Park

Total costs - £11,979

Costs on the accounts include everything apart from the fete so I will go through some of it:

1. Rent – a peppercorn rent of £100 paid annually to the Parish Council
2. Fees, Insurance and inspections for Fire Safety, Alarm and ROSPA - £334
3. Mowing Costs – £256
4. Utilities - £628
5. Capital costs - £6,398 – Mainly down to Orchard trees and fencing at £1273, circular bench at £3550. The rest was for various improvements to general area and pavilion.
6. General Maintenance - £1377
7. Fete - £2,722 (Additionally the fete also had costs owed to the G&T that bought the drinks for the bar )

At the end of the year the park still had £10.730 in their budget.

I would like to thank Sadie Dykes for her support and auditing the hall accounts that have to be submitted to the Charity Commission.

**5. Nomination of trustees.** Chris explained that there have been articles in the *Calling Oak* and on *RG Chats* inviting any new nominations. There have been no requests.

Chris suggested that the current trustees be forwarded for nomination 'en bloc'. There were no objections to this.

**6. Appointment of honorary auditor.** Chris thanked Sadie Dykes for her work. She has agreed to continue in this role in the coming year.

**7. AOB.** The formal part of the meeting concluded, Chris invited any further comments from the audience.

Richard Woodward raised the following points:

- Need for police to be notified of white fiesta car regularly using car park in the evening, not for hall activities. Nan said the police surgery held during Monday coffee mornings could be used to inform of such incidents.
- Does the Village Hall Trust have a constitution and where can you see it ?
- Minutes of trustees not being published (with reference to RGA minutes included in *Calling Oak*)
- Richard then went on to raise specific issues around park funding.

Chris explained that any request for further funding from trustees, (should there be a specific need relating to the park) would be discussed fully with the trustee group and not agreed in a formal meeting like this one.

#### **Answers to points raised by Richard.**

- Chris has informed the West Mercia Police about the white Fiesta spotted in the car park.
- The constitution will be published on the Village Hall website.
- In the future, AGM minutes will be published on the Village Hall website.
- Re park funding. On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2022, the park working group met the hall trustees to discuss the budget submitted by the working group. The working group requested donations from the hall of £3000, £2000, and £1000 in years 1,2,3.

The trustees informed the group that the park must be self-funding and not dependent on the hall. The issues of funding were discussed and the trustees proposed that they would give the £3000 in year 1 to cover the immediate cost of a mower and that in year 2 the hall would provide a loan of £1000 to fund picnic benches and the removal of leylandii trees, to be repaid in year 3.

The meeting took a vote on this proposal and the majority agreed.

#### **8. Date of next AGM April 2025, date to be confirmed**

