

THE NARTH & DISTRICT VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity no. 524389



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

2020

Present:

Clark Atkinson, Wendy Atkinson, Maria Ricketts, Marilyn Dunkelman, Sue Goodlass, Lisa Dorel, Stephen & Dianne Dix, Bill & Sue Parnell, Jane & Steve Gilliard, Jon Dunkelman, Pam Manfield, Nathan Snowton, Peter & Sue Flower, Sue & Rob Stocker, Gary Clayton

1. **Apologies:** Gwen Reid, Matthew Sadler, Rachel Widdicks, Sue and Graham Agg
2. **Minutes of the last meeting agreed**
3. **Review of the year**

Clark Atkinson, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, reported that in the event of the Covid-19 pandemic the year had been one of two halves: before and after lockdown. Despite the significant disruption caused by the pandemic, the village community response had been heroic, with residents working together to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone, particularly the most vulnerable. The laudable response demonstrated clearly the extraordinary sense of community spirit that resides on The Narth.

Prior to Lockdown

The village hall was typically in use for between 15 – 20 hours each week.

Regular weekly events included:

- Wednesday Social Club; Garden Club; The Narth Singers; Wye Valley Women; Table Tennis; Whist Drive
- Ladies Keep Fit, T'ai Chi, Yoga, Zumba

Monthly Hall events:

- The Glade Tavern and Films on the Narth.

Special events (organised by Committee or other groups):

- Village Walk (Footpath Group)
- The Invisible Woman (Village Hall Night Out play)
- The Glade Tavern Christmas Party, with the Black Pearls
- A Victorian Christmas Trial
- Christmas Carols (Wye Valley Women)

- Village Christmas Card deliveries
- Mabon (Village Hall Night Out)
- Dawn Chorus Walk (Footpath Project)

Special events (organised by Committee or other groups)

- Village Walk (Footpath Group)
- The Invisible Woman (Village Hall Night Out play)
- The Glade Tavern Christmas Party, with the Black Pearls
- A Victorian Christmas Trial
- Christmas Carols (Wye Valley Women)
- Village Christmas Card deliveries
- Mabon (Village Hall Night Out)

The Village Hall Bookings

The Hall was hired to residents, community groups, and charities for events such as children's parties, business meetings and training sessions.

Post Lockdown

Following the Covid-19 lockdown rules which were implemented in March, the Village Hall was obliged to close its doors. Many popular events were either postponed or cancelled, including:

- Live streamed rugby from the Six Nations Championship
- The Spring Quiz (organised by Sue Agg)
- The Big Breakfast (Luisa Sadler and team)
- The Village Fete (Wendy Atkinson and team)
- The annual Quiz and Curry Night (Helen King)

Help on The Narth

Help on the Narth was set up swiftly and efficiently to meet the needs of vulnerable residents. The volunteer service provided prescription collections, food deliveries, and a mask-making consortium provided a range of masks for donations to the Village Hall (see finance report). Jane Gilliard (safeguarding officer) was thanked for her instrumental role in developing and co-ordinating the volunteer service.

Jane reported that HoTN had received invaluable support from Monmouthshire County Council which contributed hugely to the success of the service. She also thanked Marilyn Dunkelman (Treasurer) for her key role, particularly in the financial administration. Marilyn's enterprising introduction of a cashless system of payments during lockdown has received plaudits and is being used as an example of excellent practice for other village halls.

Clark added his congratulations to the success of HoTN and reported that the enterprise had offered new and sustainable opportunities for local businesses. In particular, Raglan Dairies, Wiggies Bakery, and Evans of Monmouth provided an excellent delivery service during lockdown and have now gained

new customers as a result.

The 100 Club and the oil buying group continued to generate funds for the Village Hall (see Financial Report)

Hall Improvements

Closure of The Hall provided an opportunity to catch up on maintenance, repairs and improvements:

- The Garden: tidied and improved (with thanks to Pam Manfield, Gwen Reid, Steve Gilliard and Graham Agg)
- Installed an emergency phone with direct dial to 999 and Full electrical wiring check (5-yearly task) and PAT testing
- Repaired crumbling tiles and inspection of roof condition (with thanks to Alan Dorel for very short notice help)

Small health & safety improvements:

- replacement door handles to anteroom
- hand rail for stage steps

Volunteers

Clark stressed that the Village Hall belongs to the village, and everyone has a share and a say in its activities. He emphasised that Committee members are elected by residents to run the Hall on their behalf, but the role of each of our many valued volunteers is crucial.

Special thanks were given to Sue Stocker, Kay Bowen and Marg Jones for organising the **Whist Drive**. A regular Whist Drive has been held since 1983 when it was first set up by Dot Vaughan, Kay Bowen and Kay's mother. All proceeds go to hall funds, raising over £50 a month. Sue and Kay have decided it is time to retire and unless others step forward, sessions will not resume when the hall re-opens. On behalf of the village, Clark extended a massive THANK YOU and wished them all well for the future.

Clark also thanked other volunteers whose efforts contributed hugely to village life including:

- The Glade Tavern volunteers for our pub nights, the Christmas party and all the funds they bring in
- Jane Brackstone and Rosemary Thomas for welcoming newcomers to the village and providing their 'welcome pack'
- Jane Gilliard for talking on the role of Safeguarding advisor, and being instrumental in running Help on The Narth
- Steve Gilliard and Graham Agg for their gardening assistance
- Brian Mahony and the Footpath Group for maintaining the village footpaths, liaising with Natural Resources Wales over safety and facilities in The Glade
- Linda Snowden and Alison Pugh-Jones for taking over the Wednesday Social Club when Age Cymru had to withdraw
- The Village Delivery Team for distributing the newsletter to each house, and for the annual Christmas Cards deliveries.

Finance Report 2019-2020

Marilyn Dunkelman (Treasurer) gave a brief summary of Village Hall accounts. Monmouthshire County Council awarded a grant of £10,000 to each Village Hall in the area to cover costs incurred while halls are unable to open due to Covid-19 emergency. Help on The Narth has also brought in more donations as thanks to the team, and currently our accounts look very healthy (Financial Statement available on hall web site).

Unfortunately however, the Covid-19 emergency has inevitably taken its toll, with some planned maintenance work unable to go ahead. Marilyn also emphasised that whilst we are in a good financial position compared with some village halls, lost revenue from hall hire and events means that the future is uncertain. Nonetheless, the £10,000 grant will allow us to adjust to the difficulties and restrictions imposed by Covid-19. With typical Narth innovation and ingenuity, we have the funds to potentially make improvements to outside space, social distancing protocols and virus health and safety.

Marilyn thanked Bill Parnell for examining Village Hall accounts.

Discussion

Jane Gilliard thanked the Committee for its hard work during the year, seconded unanimously by meeting attendees.

Elections to the Committee

Clark thanked committee members who have retired from their posts: Larry Stoter (resigned August) former chair, on committee 4 years; Pam Manfield (resigned August) former secretary, on committee 4 years; Stephen Dix on committee 6 years, and main organiser of Nights Out shows; Gwen Reid, on committee 2 years and looked after housekeeping matters.

The following members were re-elected:

- Clark Atkinson (chair)
- Wendy Atkinson (health & safety)
- Lisa Dorel (housekeeping)
- Marilyn Dunkelman (treasurer)
- Sue Goodlass (bookings)
- Maria Ricketts (secretary)
- Rachel Widdicks (safeguarding)

Matthew Sadler (nominee) was elected unanimously.

100 Club

Sue Goodlass reported that the 100 Club now had 46 members and had raised a total of £146 for Village Hall funds 2019-2020 (see Finance Report on website)

October draw:

1st prize, Viv Casson (35)

2nd prize, Steve Gilliard (39)

Photo Competition

The twelve winning photographs for The Narth Village Calendar 2021 were displayed.

Voting for the front cover winner is to be done through website link. Closing date for voting is Thursday, 15th October 2020 at midnight.

Meeting ended at 8.15.