

## **Victory Hall – Extraordinary General Meeting**

Many residents, families and friends will have benefitted from functions and events, both private and public, held at Victory Hall over the years. The hall currently operates as a charity (known simply as the Parish Hall) registered with the Charity Commission and administered by Trustees forming a Committee on behalf of the community. In this time many residents have been members of the Committee and many more helping as volunteers. The Charity is administered and managed under a strict formal scheme with rules approved by the Charity Commission in 1970.

Fast forwarding to 2023, the management and development of the Hall was unsettled at their April meeting after a fundamental disagreement between members of the Committee which could not be resolved. This resulted in seven of the nine members resigning and Mr John Guy, as one of the two remaining members, took the chair. Unfortunately, John suffered a serious head injury in a fall on his farm and the handover of responsibilities and documentation was not complete at the time of John's fall. With issues such as insurance, banking and security needing to be resolved as well as co-ordination of forthcoming celebrations of the Kings Coronation and other future bookings a group of concerned parishioners and the remaining committee member, Nick Hall, called an Extraordinary General Meeting for Thursday 4th May following the required 7 days' notice.

30 members of the community attended the meeting. Led by Parish Council Chairman Richard Snowden the meeting first heard from the only attending committee member Nick Hall who subsequently stood down from his position as the Parochial Church Council representative. The remaining other member and chairman John Guy, who was unable to be present and sadly incapacitated, also ceasing to be a member in accordance rule 12 of the charity scheme.

With agreement from all present, nominations were sought for the 4 elected places on the committee, 6 parishioners were proposed, including the previous chairman, and each person present cast 4 votes. The results were counted by members of the parish council. The ballot resulted in Joanne Britton, Karen Holt, Reggie Gough and Bill Harper being elected to serve as Trustees.

The meeting was then read a letter dated 2008 from solicitors referring to a legacy of £20,000 gifted to the Hall for its maintenance, refurbishment or extension, and that a mandate was being sought, to use this legacy towards installing a safe, efficient and modern kitchen to enable a better and more varied use of the hall. Those present were in agreement.

The new committee met for the first time on Tuesday 9th May and those elected members were voted into office as:

Chair Bill Harper  
Vice Chair Reggie Gough  
Treasurer Joanne Britton  
Secretary Karen Holt

The three additional representative places from the current organisations with membership of the committee - the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Skittles group - will be approached for nominations and it is hoped the remaining two co-opted places will be filled

in the near future. There is also a need for a paid caretaker/cleaner and anyone who would like some part time work should contact the Secretary Karen Holt on [karen.holt6@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.holt6@btinternet.com) for further information.

As a reminder, thanks to the support and funding from the Community Benefit Fund through the Parish Council, the hall will continue to be available to parishioners and local organisations for meetings, events and celebrations free of charge. Please contact Karen on 07547 187439 for any bookings.