

FRIENDS OF HORSPATH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE HUB
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30PM

PRESENT, the Trustees of the Friends of Horspath , Kelvin and Miranda Barnes

Plus 30 members of the general public and Alison Partridge-Yoga teacher.

1.0 APOLOGIES: Elisabeth Gillespie-District counsellor; Chris and Margaret Drew; Jo Milton; Marlon May and Kim Baressi, Pilates teachers; Lucinder Mahoney; Steve Humphries

1.1 WELCOME by Sheila Frankum. Sheila asked all people present to sign the register and suggested that any new ideas should be written on post it notes and given to a trustee.

2.0 Minutes of the last AGM.Matters arising. On Page 3 the Post Office are offering all services available at the Horspath Hub

3.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: SHEILA FRANKUM

Good evening and Welcome to our second Annual General meeting in The Horspath Community Hub which is owned and run by the Friends of Horspath.

Many very important stages have been reached during the last year and I do hope all the Friends are as pleased with the progress that has been made, as indeed the trustees are. I have a lot of people here who are going to report on their own special interest or expertise and to minute a thank you to all those involved in making this project the success that it is becoming.

The Hub is being used regularly by the community for many varied activities, classes and events. As you will hear from Sally the activities range from group meetings, to parties, exhibitions and even massage and therapy to improve your health. Both the Friday morning Community Café and our now well established outreach Post Office proves very popular. Anna and Christine will tell you exactly how it is progressing.

Since last year the wonderful **bridge** has been completed so that a pathway to the village facilities is a safe route for young, old, infirm and just those enjoying a local walk. We never imagined just how well used it would become and it is because of Peter's tireless the support

from the Horspath Parish Council that the permissive path from our bridge to the car park has made it so successful.

By the Spring we heard that a large grant from WREN and a substantial support grant from TOE2 had been successfully agreed and restoration of the roof, general building maintenance, the upgrading of the windows with double glazing, draught proofing the doors and updating the electrics could all take place and the decoration of the inside of the building is due to start in a fortnights time when the Hub is not being used during the Christmas break. This is a tremendous boost for everyone using the building and will be a big bonus to the energy bills! We have also received a grant from Doris field to enable us to buy a cooker and from a fund of the Oxfordshire county councillors that Anne Purse enabled us to buy more folding tables for the café.

The Youth Group have been meeting regularly and it has also been boosted by a grant from The Bailey Thomas organisation unfortunately as we had to open a separate account for this grant it has taken a whole year for that money to be available and just as Barclays opened this new account for us the local branch is closing. However you will hear a little from Francis about this later.

You will hear from Kelvin our accountant we are managing very well, but we still have to pay back some considerable loans from people who were so generous and trusting in this project when we first started out. This is something we still need to raise money for. Although not showing in the accounts yet we are receiving £10,000 from Gift Aid this is again is thanks to all the donations received on purchasing the Hub with people signing the Gift Aid donation slip. This really is a worthwhile and important aspect of charity work. This does not cover the loans that we have, but it is going to help.

Last year one of our aims was to get involved with the younger element of the Horspath Community and with all the maintenance work going on it has not been a big priority however I am very pleased to announce that we now have a representative (Stephanie) who is prepared to act as a link with Horspath School and this has got to be a very important step in the right direction. We have a second Christmas market next week December 5th please comes! We have had a few successful markets during the last year and we certainly hope to continue with them when once the Hub is up and running fully again.

The project of saving the Methodist Chapel for community use is an Off Shoot from when the Friends of Horspath was first thought about and developed coming originally as an aspect of St Giles Church to reach out to the community of Horspath rather than just the church congregation. I do hope that the Hub is supporting this idea. That from the building a real community develops and I also hope that you the community feel that you can use the building for your own events and activities. I would like to think that although it needs to run as a business in order to pay off the loans that the essence of the original concept of building a more dynamic and caring community is not lost.

There are many others who are going to give you information in more detail so it just leaves me to thank all the trustees and all the volunteers for all their work and support during the last

year. Especially to all the ladies who help run the café, to Chris Drew and Chris Goss who have helped with their height and strength taking care of the maintenance, to Gill Grey with cleaning and cooking and being available whenever asked.

4.0 FINANCIAL REPORT: Kelvin Barnes presented a financial report which is available upon request.

He spoke to the accounts as follows: “There are significant loans outstanding from the community. As part of the AGM paper pack for the attendees, I probably only need to provide page 8 of the PDF (the Statement of Financial Activities), page 9 of the PDF (the Balance Sheet) and pages 14 and 15 (Incoming Resources and Resources Expended). Pages 14 and 15 give a bit more detail of the types of income received and expenditure incurred and supports the Statement of Financial Activities.

In terms of the income received, this does include the release of £10,000 of funding received from SODC which is in line with the terms of the grant agreement with them that was entered into when the Chapel was purchased. This is however more of an accounting entry as the cash received for this grant has already been spent when the Chapel was purchased. Income this year also includes the first full year of income from the hall hire. And there is what is most likely to be a one-off income for the gift aid claim of about £10,000 made for the donations received when the Chapel was bought.

There is nothing unusual in the expenditure; it just reflects normal costs that you could expect with the running of the Chapel.

The key to the future of the Charity is the servicing of the loans and having the ability to have sufficient funds in place to meet the loan repayments when they become due. If I exclude the impact of the grant income on income and the large gift aid claim if everything else remained equal the Charity is making a surplus of about £10,000 per year. This is not going to be sufficient to meet the loan repayments so I think it is likely that you are going to have to either seek permission from the lenders to extend the loan term or find alternative finance to pay off the existing loans using a new loan. But any new loan will need to be done in accordance with Charity Law and you will need to demonstrate that you can afford to service this loan from future surpluses as this may become a far more regular commitment albeit most probably a lower regular amount over a longer period of time.”

Sheila thanked Kevin. There were no questions from the floor

5.00 CLASSES APPENDIX 1. Sally Humphrey drew attention to the sheet outlining all the classes. All needs support although they are going well. Tai Chi finished due to lack of support. There is Pilates on Monday morning with Kim Barresi as the teacher. It is small but enthusiastic. Table tennis on Tuesday is very successful. Marlon May does 2 Pilates classes; one on Wednesday morning and one on Thursday evening both are well supported. Steve’s painting class is very small on a Thursday morning.

The cafe runs on Friday morning with the Youth club for young people with special needs on Friday evening once a month. Taise prayer is monthly on a Sunday evening.

Ray said that Kathy Talbot an expert bridge player is willing to start a bridge club in the Hub. Please sign the list to join this group

Alison Partridge gave a huge thank you to Sally and said that she felt it was a privilege to her here. She likes the ethos and the environment of The Hub. The benefits of Yoga are huge and include getting flexible and calm. She has 15 regular students and runs 2 classes, seated yoga and Yoga.

6.0 Renovation work funded by WREN, TOE2 and STONEPIT

REPORT ATTACHED AS Appendix 2

7.0 THE POST OFFICE

7.1 Christine Donnelly from Great Milton Post Office thanked the meeting for our continued support of Judy, particularly making sure that she doesn't get left alone. She gave us a few statistics:

In the past year 2571 second class stamps had been sold 1187 first class stamps; 50 mail order refunds; £87000 taken out.

7.2 Judy's report attached as Appendix 3

8.0 THE COMMUNITY CAFE

Report attached as Appendix 4

9.0 THE YOUTH CLUB. Frances Steepe spoke about the Youth club which is for disabled young adults. They meet as often as her son's health allows. Between 4 and 10 young people come She has found that the parents come in even if the young person decides not to do so. She finds the Hub to be a good venue, small and safe. The sessions usually last for about 2 hours and the aim is to have them once a month

10.00 FUTURE ACTIVITIES Community cinema. Lawrence Brown told the meeting that they were waiting for the wall to be plastered. He has formed a little group to manage the project with Jo Milton as convenor. There are funds available. Tomorrow there will be

meeting with the Thame cinema club to get advice on how to proceed. They would welcome ideas for films and timings.

: 10.1 Ray Jackson is hoping to start a bridge club at The Hub. His neighbour Kathy Talbot is a good bridge player and has offered to provide tuition

10.2 Paul Walton has offered to run a writing group approx 4 times a year.

10.3 Sarah Turner is willing to run a childrens group with music once a month. On a Saturday morning

10.5 Peter Wart suggested a village history group given that we have an expert local historian in Brian Lowe. Brian is leading a village walk on New Year's Day

11.0 AOB

11.01. Heather Palmer asked when a mirror would be fixed to enable safer entering and exiting from the Hub. Peter Ewart said that he had not been able to fix it due course

11.2 Heather was thanked for her Stirling work on the website without which the Hub would have real difficulties functioning. We are totally reliant on the website which has the booking forms.

11.3 The bus service. We have just heard that the council are definitely withdrawing the £87000 subsidy for the 103/4 bus service through Horspath operated by Heyfordian. The decision will be ratified on 11th February. It was agreed that we needed a public meeting to look at what we are going to do. Clearly Horspath needs a bus service.

The next AGM will be on WEDNESDAY 23RD NOVEMBER 2016 at the Hub at 7.30pm

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