

**FRIENDS OF HORSPATH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019  
at 7.30 pm at the Horspath Community Hub**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Trustees:</b>	Mrs Sheila Frankum (Chair)	Mrs Judy Kent (Minutes)
		Mrs Rebecca Brown	Mr Ray Jackson
		Mr Peter Ewart	Mrs Anna Radcliffe
		Mrs Sally Humphrey	
		<b>Accountant:</b> Mrs Miranda Barnes	
	<b>Villagers:</b>	Mr Dick Burgess	Mr Paul Surman
		Mr Martin Harris	Mrs Christine Surman
		Mrs Gill Gray	Mrs Margaret Drew
		Mrs Leonora Richardson	Mr Chris Drew
		Mr Maurice Stone	Mrs Janice Marshall
		Mary de Jong	Mr Chris Pym
		Mr John Underdown	Mr Annette Miller
		Mr Nigel Montgomery	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Mr Donald Gray	Mrs Carol Cuthbert	
	Mr Lawrence Brown	Mr Brian Lowe	
	Mrs Lyn Drury	Mrs Natalie Oakley	
	Mrs Mary Byrne	Miss Janet Smith	
	Mr Frank Byrne	Mr Kelvin Barnes (Accountant)	

**1.0 WELCOME**

Sheila Frankum welcomed everybody and thanked them so much for coming to our AGM. She said there was an Attendance sheet going around, which we would be grateful if you would sign. But if anyone did not wish to put in any other information, we just needed your name for the AGM attendance. With respect to GDPR, we never send out people's contact details.

The agenda was printed on the whiteboard to save paper.

**2.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

Sheila briefly summarised the minutes of the previous AGM. Gareth Malone had visited the Hub and we showed the video. The Farming Today programme had also visited the Hub.

There were no questions.

**3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM**

There were no matters arising.

**4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

(Appendix 1 – Chairman's Report May 2018 – April 2019)

Sheila explained that our accounting year went from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April because of the timing of the purchase of the Hub. She said that classes, events, celebrations, meetings, markets,

talks and activities had continued throughout the year along with the weekly Post Office and coffee mornings. There had been a Pop-Up Restaurant, Mindfulness classes, and a Baby Shower. There should have been two Baby Showers, but the baby was born before the event! There had also been a movie afternoon for primary school children.

The venue had proved to be successful in its' original aim over the last six years.

Sheila explained the Friends' origin as many new people had joined us during this time and possibly many had forgotten its' roots.

St Giles' PCC, along with Emma, were active in providing support and help to all the villagers, not just the congregation. At one village meeting a lot of interest was expressed in building a community for all regardless of age, religion, class, colour etc. In 2010 the Friends of Horspath was formed in an informal way. At that time, activities were held in the Methodist Chapel, the village hall, St Giles' Church, and the school.

Then the Methodists put the Chapel up for sale. During the next six months the current Friends of Horspath was formed with a proper constitution and grant money. A solicitor, and an accountant were employed. With much support from the village, the Chapel was purchased in September 2013 and the first Coffee Morning was in March 2014.

The current Friends of Horspath was an offshoot of the informal group. Sheila was the chairman of the over-riding group. But the group seen here were the trustees and directors of the Hub and its' charity. They ran and organised much of what went on. Lawrence had been our chairman for five-and-a-half years, but unfortunately had stepped down recently. We would like to thank him for all he had achieved and the work he had put in during that time. Ray had taken over Lawrence's role.

Rebecca had been very active in applying for grants enabling us to keep the building in good shape, as well as supporting different activities.

Judy was not only our postmistress, but also our minuting secretary and newsletter editor. Now she also helped to put our bookings online.

Sally dealt with all the classes, teachers, and bookings.

Anna organised the coffee mornings, the volunteers, and markets.

Peter and Ray dealt with the maintenance of the building and garden. A big vote of thanks goes to Chris Goss and Chris Drew for the support they gave when jobs needed to be done. Also, a very big thank you to Gill and Donald Gray for keeping the building clean on a regular basis. We could not survive without that extra help.

It was with great sadness that we accepted that Emma was moving on. We thanked her for all she had achieved by giving her a party. We did Emma and her family proud and gave her an excellent send off. Perhaps our next party will be to welcome the new incumbent.

Emma had wanted to help those with ongoing health problems, disability, grief, and loneliness both in the community and the church. To this end, Making Time, an afternoon of crafting activities, was set up. Emma managed to get a grant from the diocese. Our first activity was to decorate the Hub for the Remembrance Service in November with our new memorial. This

was followed by decorations for Christmas. Now there was a get together on the first Monday of the month with all sorts of crafts taking place and a lot of chat, tea, and cakes.

We were pleased that Jacqueline and Ivan Wright used the Hub to launch their Book on Shotover. They had been very supportive of the Hub, so we were pleased to help them.

Thanks go to Anna for organising the tea towel venture, which we sold over the Christmas period in aid of the Hub and St Giles' Church.

John Underdown, with a lot of hard work and forethought, produced a wonderful 2020 Horspath Calendar. I think he had now set a precedent for the future. We did not have any left, but orders could be placed. 30 were needed for a reprint. Many thanks to John for raising £300 for the Hub.

A very big thank you to Peter who had managed to put up the traffic mirror, making it a lot safer to exit the building.

The Age UK Film Club, started last year, had been very successful.

I am the Treasurer with this group, a role I had previously avoided as maths and money were not my forte. However I have learnt a lot and I will now hand you over to someone who is an expert in this field to give you the information we have to report to HMRC and the Charity Commission, as well as yourselves.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT**

(Appendix 2 – Friends of Horspath Unaudited Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019)

Miranda explained there was a surplus for the year of £14,569 and a reserve of £200,000 equity in the property. Expenses were just over £10,000. A bit more than last year had been spent on maintenance, and interest on outstanding loans.

Income was £25,000, slightly down on last year. Donations were lower than last year, but room hire was the same. A few people owed money, but not much.

Sheila said we were paying back a £6,000 loan in the next few weeks and our ACRE loan payment was due in October. That was why we had built up our bank balance so that we could pay off loans.

The rise in fundraising expenses from £344 to £522 was queried. Miranda said she would look into it and Sheila said she would look back at the books.

Sheila thanked Miranda for the wonderful job she had done.

## **6.0 CLASSES, CLUBS AND EVENTS**

Sally reported that we were continually reminded by people who take classes at the Hub how lucky we were to have this bright, warm facility in the village. Most people using the Hub came from Horspath, but also Wheatley, Garsington, Cuddesdon, Great and Little Milton, Cowley, Headington and beyond.

## **6.1 Table Tennis, Line Dancing, Pilates, and Yoga**

These classes kept people fit. All were going well, except that the morning Yoga class had stopped because there were not enough students. We were still lucky to have Lisa Cuerden teaching a lively Yoga class on Thursday evenings from 6.00 pm to 7.15 pm.

## **6.2 Seated Yoga**

We had difficulty finding a replacement when Alvira had given up that class. We found Louise Kenworthy, who was recommended by Libby Chase whom she knew from the school. Louise's aim was to motivate and educate students who believed in the importance of keeping physically active for their health and wellbeing. Her classes offered gentle exercises which were fun and could be done either sitting or standing. Louise had renamed the class "Move It or Lose It".

It was a very special class of women (they were all women, but men were welcome too) because everyone was over 70. Without a bus service, they would find it very difficult to get to an exercise class.

## **6.3 Art Class and Tai Chi**

We were saddened when Steve Humphries had to give up his Art Class because his legs had deteriorated. We appreciated the years he had worked with his students and brought such pleasure to them. Thank you Steve.

Another disappointment this year was losing Graham Bousell, our Tai Chi teacher. He came to us at the beginning of the year asking to start teaching a Tai Chi class in the Hub. He started at the end of February and the class numbers were just building up. Unfortunately for us, Graham and his wife were moving to Bampton.

This meant we were looking for an Art teacher and a Tai Chi teacher.

## **6.4 Post Office and Coffee Mornings**

The Friday morning Post Office and Coffee Mornings continued to be very popular. At the recent 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Peter Coolman, he had said how much everyone appreciated having the Hub to meet with friends and share their news. He said, "It's such a nice, friendly atmosphere. You girls do a tremendous job", meaning the trustees and **all** the volunteers who kept it running smoothly.

## **6.5 Monthly Events**

### **6.5.1 Making Time**

As Sheila reported, on the first Monday of every month, people came together for a craft-making session called Making Time.

### **6.5.2 Creative Writing Group**

Once a month on Monday evenings, Paul Walton had a Creative Writing Group. This is what he had to say about this group:

This is a class, *“Combining a mix of inspiration, practical tips and writing tools with the chance to get friendly feedback from colleagues.”*

Paul had reported to Sally that Horspath had a small, but enthusiastic group of creative writers who met at the Hub on Monday evenings about nine times a year in an informal and supportive atmosphere. They enjoyed rising to a variety of writing challenges involving fiction, non-fiction and occasionally poetry. Now in their fourth season, they had tackled life writing, whodunits, travel, and melodrama. They had been inspired to write flash fiction using popular song titles, put characters into impossible dilemmas and explored the power of place, including mysterious Horspath.

Paul was keen to welcome new members who wanted to share their stories and add to our satisfying and creative group.

### **6.5.3 Senior Residents’ Club**

Leo Richardson, Chair of the Club, had said how happy they were to be meeting in the Hub on the first Wednesday afternoon of the month.

### **6.5.4 Age UK Film Club**

Kate Hart from Age UK Oxfordshire, arranged for a film to be shown at the Hub every month for £3.50. It was of great value and she always seemed to choose films that everyone enjoyed. Kate had emailed that she had set up the monthly Film Club in July 2018. The turnout had been consistently good. Films ranged from some feel-good comedies (Finding Your Feet and Love Punch) to musicals (the Greatest Showman and Salmon Fishing in the Yemen. Patrons were mostly from Horspath, but others came from Headington, Cowley and Wheatley.

### **6.5.5 Age UK Information and Advice**

Kate also provided an Information and Advice service on the second Friday of each month during the Coffee Mornings. She told us how much she enjoyed the friendly, supportive atmosphere at the Hub. Since the drop-ins started in March, Kate had helped 23 people with their queries.

### **6.5.6 Horspath Wine Club**

On the third Wednesday evening of the month the Horspath Wine Club met here. This is what Nigel Montgomery had to say about the birth of this club: *“We started the Wine Club last September. We began with 19 members and now have over 30. During the year we’ve tasted over 100 wines, champagnes and ports and had a lot of fun in the process. Our membership ranges from those in their 20’s up to 80’s which sparks some lively discussion and very different tasting experiences. The Hub is the ideal location for the club, as it’s central to the village and provides great facilities. We have space for 50 members, so if anyone wishes to join, they should view the website where they will find plenty of information about the club. Our next tasting after the summer break is Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> and we have a strong series of tastings together for the coming year.”*

Sally said Nigel was here tonight if anybody wanted to talk to him about the Wine Club.

### **6.5.7 The Horspath Garden Club**

This was one monthly activity which was no longer meeting as there were not enough people to organise the gardening events.

## **6.6 Other Activities**

### **6.6.1 Hypnobirthing Classes**

Stephanie McGee was offering four sessions of Hypnobirthing Classes to expectant mothers and their partners, which was very popular.

### **6.6.2 Meditation Sessions**

A group of four meditation sessions were being offered by Tanya Lecchi at the Hub. They were free but people needed to have some previous experience in meditation.

Please contact us for more information about any of these activities and let us know if you wanted to start up an activity. Also let us know if you wanted to see a new activity taking place at the Hub.

## **7.0 POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

### **7.1 Pop-Up Movie**

One of our new Group members, Natalie Oakley, ran a very successful Pop-Up Movie for young children in the summer. She wanted to run more of these for youngsters in the future.

### **7.2 Horspath Calendar 2020**

You probably have seen the calendar produced by John Underdown with the help of Sheila. It sold out in two weeks. If anybody wanted to buy one, please sign the list on the table. If enough people signed, John would order more calendars.

There was now an idea to make greetings cards from the calendar photographs and sell them to raise money for the Hub.

### **7.3 Deserted Medieval Village Called Old Horsepath**

Another new initiative was a small group formed to look into the story of the Deserted Medieval Village called Old Horsepath. Chris Pym, a relative of Muriel Walker, had been exploring the area for at least 40 years. He had researched and written a paper, with some input from Brian Lowe and Ivan Wright. With the help of many old maps, old Ordnance Survey maps, and Google Earth, it was now known that there really was a village of Old Horsepath. The location was clear. At the same time, a track had been located which went from the Ridings to Horspath and probably on to Old Horsepath. It could have been following an old Roman road. This exciting story had just been printed in a booklet of which a few copies were still available for £13.00. These copies could be viewed when we adjourned this evening and a copy would be permanently available in the Hub library. A website had been created and maintained by Geoff Roynon: The Horsepath Archaeology and History Group.

#### **7.4 Horspath Website**

All the information about Hub activities would be difficult to find were it not for our webmaster, Heather Palmer's expertise. She kept us in order so that activities were listed on the website four months in advance. Our postmistress, Judy, also produced a calendar on the website to the end of the year so that people can view which rooms were available when they wanted to book the Hub.

#### **8.0 CAFÉ AND MARKETS**

Anna reported that the café continued to operate on Friday mornings. We prided ourselves in being open every Friday of the year (unless it was Christmas Day!). We sold affordable coffee, tea, and homemade cakes. The coffee was Fairtrade Columbian coffee which seemed to be a cut above your general coffee bean!

It was great that our regulars came nearly every week and enjoyed the fellowship. We had many other occasional visitors, some from villages around Horspath.

The presence of the Post Office was a huge advantage and enabled us to meet a wide range of people whether they stopped for coffee or not.

Proceeds from the Café went towards a regular coffee and tea order, and the general working of the Hub.

Once a month, Kate Hart from Age UK, came to inform about the services they offered to older people.

We also supported two charities: Macmillan Cancer Relief and Children in Need.

Twice a year we held a produce market. Our Christmas Market this year was on 30<sup>th</sup> November from 10.00 am – 12.30 pm; new times which had been suggested to us by our customers. This year we would have a record number of stalls from local people with various talents and interests being displayed. Our Father Christmas grotto organised by the Horspath Nursery, was a first and hopefully would draw in the children.

Our volunteers were essential for all our events and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Without you there would be no café, no market, and indeed no Horspath Hub!

#### **9.0 POST OFFICE**

Judy reported that the total number of transactions from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019 was 1,512, as compared to 1,574 for the same period last year. We closed on 1<sup>st</sup> February because of snow and, of course, on Good Friday, which was the same as last year. In the coming year, the Post Office was to close on Boxing Day, Good Friday, and on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, which was a bank holiday for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day.

A few months ago, Judy had realised that the Post Office computer recorded the number of transactions, rather than the footfall. But from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 she was to record the Post Office footfall, as one person may do more than once transaction. So the figure may have fallen slightly at the next AGM, but this was nothing to worry about.

Christine and Judy were very happy with the support given by the village to our Post Office and long may it continue.

Sheila explained that because Horspath no longer had a Post Office, we had meetings with Post Office managers to discuss the possibility of setting up one in the Hub. It had been agreed that this go ahead because of the café. We had to have a postmistress and Judy volunteered to take on the post. Then she became a trustee and director. The village agreed we could do this.

**10.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**10.1** John Underdown said he was very concerned, as we all were about the youngsters in the village. Sheila said we had tried children’s parties, which were still popular, and a dance class for a while, but they had moved on.

John said all the activities were for older people and adults. People at the end of primary school/beginning of secondary school were not catered for. He suggested a computer programming club. They used their computers at home, but it was very solitary. Providing a venue for them where they brought their own gear, they could help each other. They could meet after school in the early evening and would pay for the cost of hiring a room at the Hub.

Sheila said that we would need to do some organising. Refreshments were self-funding.

Nigel said that Microsoft had a group called Hackathon. Google also had a relationship with the schools because they put Google status into schools. Funding would be required.

John said children could come here to play games together, rather than on their own. Trips could be arranged to see a gaming expert or invite him here.

Sheila said we needed to talk to Wheatley Park School. Rebecca asked how you could get young people to interact. John said they would start doing it and somebody would help them.

Sheila said that an adult who had had a CRB check would need to be here with them. John said if you got it running, it would have to be weekly.

Nigel suggested that the school could have a class here at the Hub.

**10.2 WHEATLEY NEWSLETTER**

The price of an advertisement in the Wheatley Newsletter had gone up to £75.00 per year for a quarter page advertisement every quarter.

**11.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Friends of Horspath AGM would be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Sheila thanked the meeting very much for supporting us and Gill Gray thanked the trustees for the work that they did.

Signed: ..... Date: .....