

**FRIENDS OF HORSPATH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 29th September 2022 at 7.30pm
in the Horspath Hub.**

PRESENT:	Trustees:	Sheila Frankum (Chair) Ray Jackson Sally Humphrey Anna Radcliffe	Lawrence Brown Rebecca Brown Natalie Oakley Judy Kent (Secretary)
	Friends of Horspath:	John Underdown Maurice Stone Gill Gray Angela Julian	Martin Harris Frank Byrne Maureen Lowe
APOLOGIES:		Janice Marshall Margaret Drew Carol Cuthbert Annette Miller	Christopher Drew Janet Horsley John Cuthbert

1.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM ON 29th SEPTEMBER 2021

The minutes of the previous AGM were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM

There were no matters arising.

3.0 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Sheila welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. We were very grateful they had turned up. She pointed out that she was Chair of the Friends of Horspath only.

4.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Sheila reported that the ceiling projector was installed yesterday.

Our financial year ended on 31st May 2022, as we had started in 2013. Next year was to be our tenth birthday.

This year had been so much better, but we must remain Covid aware. The Post Office had been open continuously. The Coffee Mornings went through a phase when people came to it without Covid restrictions. We did not have many at first, but now they were more confident and included people from outside the village.

We had held two markets this year: one at Christmas and one in the spring. Both were good community events and were very successful fundraisers. Classes had been busy with some interesting classes.

We had welcomed the return of Kate Hart from Age UK. She had resumed the Information and Advice on the first Friday of the month, the next one being next Friday. The Film Club had also started again on the second Wednesday of the month. The first meeting of the Film Club had not gone according to plan. We were supposed to be seeing the "Bucket List" but could not get the DVD to work in the old projector. So John Underdown came to the rescue by showing an old black and white film from his laptop. Everybody enjoyed it thanks to John. Thanks to Kate who had pushed hard to resume the Film Club. I am sure the numbers would build up and Judy pointed out that the Queen's death had probably influenced the numbers.

We did have to maintain all areas of the Hub. The outside of the windows and the front door had been painted and the grass had been mown. The floors had been cleaned and Sheila could not thank John Underdown enough for his hard work over two days. Sheila had a surprise for him and produced a feather duster, a certificate for his outstanding expertise in using the cleaning machine and a box of Celebration chocolates. She said that John had saved us an awful lot of money in not having to buy new flooring.

We were also very pleased with the new carpet by the Entrance Hall front door, which had worked very well in keeping the floors clean.

Sheila thanked Rob Gray for mowing the grass.

Sheila reported that the energy bills had been extremely low. We were now with EDF Energy for electricity and gas. We had received advice not to stay with British Gas for electricity and Crown for gas and suggested we moved to EDF. We now had a three-year contract with them.

The Horspath calendar last year was a good fundraiser. Thanks to John Underdown who organised the sponsors.

Natalie had organised the Scarecrow Trail last year. We had now cancelled events during half term to make way for this year's Scarecrow Trail.

Thank you to Anna for arranging the very successful Queen's Jubilee Party in June. It was thought that more than 200 people attended. There was an Exhibition showing old photographs of the village.

There was also an Exhibition of Village Artwork and an Exhibition of Sculpture organised by John Underdown which showed the creativity in the village.

It was sad to report the death of Derek Hodges. The Senior Residents would miss his quizzes. Anna said she remembered when he was Father Christmas a few years ago. Derek's daughter had sent a donation for the Hub.

Sheila thanked Geoff Roynon for setting up and maintaining our website for which he worked extremely hard.

We held a very successful Apple Day recently. Chris Drew became an expert at apple pressing by the end of the day. The Apple Day was to be repeated next year.

Sheila thanked all the trustees for their hard work:

- Anna for the coffee mornings and markets.
- Sally for organising the classes and booking events.
- Judy for writing the newsletters, minute-taking, Gift Aid submissions and the Post Office.
- Natalie for organising fund-raising events.
- Ray for chairing the Hub Management Group meetings and maintenance.
- Rebecca and Lawrence Brown for their continued support.

5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT

(Appendix 1 – Unaudited Accounts for the Year Ended 31 May 2022)

The report was prepared by Kelvin Barnes, our accountant. He used to come to the AGM but that cost us money. Sheila now had to sign off the accounts once they had been approved by the AGM and send them to the Charity Commission.

5.1 Statement of Financial Activities (page 6)

Sheila explained that we owned the building, apart from some loans, which was referred to as Fixed Assets. SODC had first claim on the building and there was still £10,000, which would be negated next year. Should the Hub have to be sold, SODC would have claim to £10,000 of the sale price. We had paid off a loan to ACRE last October. We still owed £82,983.

5.2 Incoming Resources (page 11)

Angie queried the figure of £28,590, as there seemed to be a line missing and did not make sense.

(Subsequent to the meeting, Sheila checked the full accounts and clarified that the missing line was further fund-raising from generated grants of £6,314)

We had received grants from Stone Pit and Gift Aid. Hire of the Hall had brought in £4,757 and the total income was £33,348.

5.3 Expenses (page 12)

Advertising and promotion were the costs of printing the newsletters and advertising in the Wheatley newsletters.

Fundraising and Event Expenses referred to the Queen's Jubilee party.

On opening up the Hub after Covid, we had employed cleaners at a total cost of £1,717.

Property maintenance was cleaning the floors, painting and the new piece of carpet. Professional fees were for Kelvin Barnes.

Telephone was for broadband - £463 paid monthly.

Subscriptions were for Community Matters.

Licences in order to show films, serve alcohol, and for dancing.

Total expenses for 2022 were £14,396 and for 2021 £8,281.

John Underdown said that, as from December, there would be no more money spent on newsletters. He asked if we were taking in more than we were paying out in a month. Sheila said we were always OK. We had paid off some loans and we never went below the amount we had ring-fenced. We were managing comfortably but we still needed to raise funds to keep the building in order. Parties were a good fund-raiser.

Sheila said the full accounts were to be sent to the Charity Commission.

6.0 CLASSES, CLUBS AND EVENTS

(Appendix 2)

Sally Humphrey reporting.

Compared with this time last year, activities at the Hub were nearly back to normal. Whilst keeping an eye on class sizes, keeping distances and having good ventilation, things were more or less back to pre-Covid times.

There had been numerous children's parties, family functions and meetings in the Hub as people felt more relaxed about mixing.

Heather Palmer, our webmaster since the inception of the Hub had retired and we celebrated all her hard work with a special Coffee Morning at the Hub on 29th October. We were lucky to find another capable webmaster in Geoff Royon, who had redesigned and maintained our website. The website address was horspathhub.co.uk and was full of up-to-date information.

One of our yoga teachers was headhunted for her perfect job at a yoga retreat in Yorkshire in April. One of her friends, also a yoga teacher, had taken over her class and also the Seated Wellness class.

Another yoga teacher moved to Brighton last year but could not leave the Hub completely. She was giving evening yoga sessions at the Hub once a month and was

now also giving one-to-one yoga and massage sessions on the two days she came back to Oxford.

A new initiative, Spanish for Kids, was started by Maibe Serrano. The class worked well last year but had been stopped this year as the youngsters were too tired after school. We had lost another special tutor, Marlon May, who had run an early morning Pilates class. His other students wanted more evening classes. His faithful nine students were very sad but were able to continue to practice from one of the many videos Marlon had prepared. We wished him luck with his expanding health and fitness business.

John Underdown and his art students had exhibited their work in the Main Hall and Entrance Hall at the end of May. Some of the work was sold to visitors to the Hub.

John added a Sculpture group to the art available at the Hub. The first group of six sessions was so successful that he started another six sessions this September. The students displayed their work at the Coffee Morning on 26th August.

The Seated Wellness class (a seated exercise class encouraging positive thinking) had moved from silence to sound. Everyone exercised much more enthusiastically to popular songs chosen by the students. The tutor put a small speaker in the middle of the room and scrolled through her 'phone to find tracks from her catalogue of music. Sixteen people had come to the class over the year, but we had ten students at a time as we were a small close-knit group. Some students had to have time out for surgery or illness and returned when they were able.

The Oxfordshire Music School was hoping to give weekly lessons in guitar and ukulele on Wednesdays. Unfortunately only one person was interested despite extensive advertising, so the classes did not go ahead.

All other classes were doing well. The Line Dancers had been dancing through Covid and even through temperatures of 40 degrees. The Senior Residents' Club had enjoyed fascinating speakers (some, thanks to Brian Lowe) and hearty meals at our local pubs.

John Underdown launched the fourth Horspath Calendar in September with photographs taken by villagers in and around Horspath. John was selling them for £5.

If anybody was interested in joining any classes or activities, please contact the person in charge of the activity on the Classes and Activities paper on your chair.

7.0 FUTURE EVENTS

Sally Humphrey and Natalie Oakley reporting.

7.1 Age UK Information and Advice

We were pleased to welcome back Kate Hart in September. She worked for Age UK and would set up her Information and Advice table alongside the Coffee Morning on the first Friday of the month.

7.2 Film Club

Sally said that films were to be shown on the new ceiling-mounted projector. The next session was to be on 14th October. The Film Club met on the second Wednesday of the month from 2.00pm-4.00pm for £3.50, which included home-made cake and coffee or tea. Doors opened at 1.45pm. The projector could be used for power point presentations or films by anybody hiring the hall.

7.3 Sunday School

St Giles Church was to start a Sunday School at the Hub on the first Sunday of each month from 11.00am-12.00pm starting in October.

7.4 Defibrillator and First Aid Training

Two free training sessions had been held in First Aid and the use of Defibrillators run by a charity called Changing Our Behaviour. One of the participants said it was very helpful and gave her the confidence to have a go if necessary. There was a defibrillator outside the main door of the Village Hall and another one at the front door of the school. It was planned to have one more at Berkeleyparks at the top of Gidley Way. Natalie kept them in good working order and checked them every week. There was to be a third session on 11th October, and it was hoped that as many people as possible would take advantage of this free training. Please contact Sally if you wanted to attend.

7.5 Scarecrow Trail

Natalie said that the next Scarecrow Trail was to take place during half-term in October when the village would be transformed into a zoo. Twenty households had signed up. It was a good fund-raiser for the Hub. Last year, the proceeds were split 50/50 between the Church and the Hub. We sold over 700 maps of the village. There were more than 1,000 people walking around our village. Last year, we introduced six miniature scarecrows which were hosted by people who could not make their own.

7.6 Apple Pressing Day

Natalie reported that on 17th September, we had held an event with about 100 villagers attending. We pressed over 1,000 apples. It was a wonderful afternoon and we raised over £200. We would welcome any ideas to add to this event.

Sheila said that she and Natalie had hired the apple press from The Library of Things at a cost of £30. It was a warehouse which hired out miscellaneous items.

7.7 Asda, Wheatley Tokens

Natalie had registered the Hub for the green token vote at Asda, Wheatley. At present the Hub was in first place, but this would have to be verified and a date chosen to

present the award. £500 was awarded for first place, £400 for second place and £300 for third place. We would not know until 17th November.

8.0 MAINTENANCE OF THE HUB

Ray Jackson reporting.

Ray said that the Hub was in remarkable condition for its age and there was not a lot to do. There had been some major improvements to the building. We had done maintenance work on the bridge, cleaned the floors and painted the outside of the front door.

Next year we hoped to landscape the garden with some hard standing for cars for those with a disability to prevent mud, flower beds, a tree and a bench.

General maintenance was straight forward. There was some cellotape to be removed from the film wall. The inside of the windows had to be repainted and misted windows had to be replaced.

Sheila pointed out that the “Horspath Hub” sign outside had a wonky “O”. Martin said it had been sub-contracted to Eckley Stuart, and he suspected that a prong had come out. He said external wall filler would fix it.

9.0 COFFEE MORNINGS AND MARKETS

Anna Radcliffe reporting.

9.1 Friday Coffee Mornings

Anna reported that the numbers were back up and there was a different group of people as well as loyal villagers there. It was very popular. Neil Lloyd-Jani was very helpful in ferrying disabled people to and from the Hub. As always, our volunteers turned out a good cuppa and some delicious cake. Thank you so much for your help. We had always tried to keep our prices down and would continue to do so.

It was suggested that the Hub provided another afternoon tea for all the volunteers.

9.2 Christmas and Spring Markets

These had become established as Hub favourites and always went well. We made a good sum of money to keep the Hub going and everyone seemed happy. Once again, we kept the cost of tables low to encourage stallholders. Last Christmas, Father Christmas visited our market and kept warm and cosy in the shed. Thank you to him and his helpers for making the market extra special.

9.3 Jubilee Tea

Thanks to a very generous grant from the Stone Pit Trust, we had a wonderful outdoor tea party in June. Our caterers produced a first-class afternoon, and a good time was

had by all. We thought that 100 people would come but finished up with more like 200! And the sun shone. Perhaps we could do it again for King Charles' coronation.

9.4 Creative Writing Group

Anna said there was a Creative Writing Group about every six weeks. Paul Walton had been the tutor, but he had left, and Paul Surman was now the very successful poetry tutor. We really appreciated his input. We were now going back to writing prose.

10.0 POST OFFICE

Judy Kent reporting.

The past year had been "normal" as far as Covid went, apart from having to close on 25th March because Great Milton Post Office was affected by Covid. Judy was off sick on 22nd July; apart from that the Post Office had been open throughout the year.

Nevertheless, the total footfall was a lot less than the previous year when it was 943. This year it was 759. However, there was no danger of the Post Office closing.

Judy anticipated that the coming months and maybe years, were likely to result in a loss of business. Already, she had noticed that the number of home shopping returns was declining, probably because of the economic climate.

Non-bar-coded stamps must be used by 31st January 2023. Old £20 and £50 bank notes were no longer accepted as a form of payment anywhere but could be paid into your bank account. They could not be exchanged for new ones. Christmas stamps were available from 3rd November.

Again, grateful thanks went to Sheila Frankum, Ray Jackson, Sally Humphrey, Anna Radcliffe, John Underdown, Chris Drew and Chris Goss for playing their part in being there for me at the beginning and end of my sessions. I was so grateful for their help in carrying the heavy equipment to and from my car. I also wanted to thank the volunteers at the Coffee Mornings for plying me with a good supply of coffee and cake.

11.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Village Magazine

John Underdown said we had been thinking of producing a combined magazine between the Church, the Hub, and the Parish Council. We had obtained a grant from Stone Pit. Anna had shown John magazines from other villages. Ours was to be free and issued quarterly. He was hoping people would submit articles. It was noted that organisations such as the Cricket Club and the school would be able to submit articles. There was to be a colour picture on the front and on the back. It would be launched on the 1st December. We had insisted that a whole page was devoted to the Parish Council, but they were not sure.

Judy said she thought the whole point of the magazine was to encourage the Parish Council to share information.

11.2 Bus Stop on at the top of Gidley Way

Lawrence said the last bus stop was just after Sandy Lane and no other stop until Littleworth. He had contacted Tim Bearder and another bus stop was going to be installed.

Angie said that they had written to her to say there would be a bus stop outside her house. There was no place for a bus stop there and it should be outside 72 Gidley Way.

11.3 Covid

Martin said he was on three NHS Committees, and we had the beginning of another outbreak in Oxfordshire. The John Radcliffe Hospital had admitted 33 people with Covid and three were on ventilators. There had been no deaths last week or the week before. He said we had to prepare for the worst as epidemiologists reckoned it would be worse than before and would peak in November. Some elective surgery had been cancelled, and the hospitals were just about coping. There was concern for staff having to deal with another outbreak.

Martin stressed the importance of vaccinations in preventing more severe Covid.

12.0 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

12.1 Film Club

Frank Byrne queried whether the Film Club informed people of the film to be shown. It was explained that people could only be informed the week before because of copyright law. The previous practice was that Kate circulated a list of films and people put a tick against the one they wanted to see. The film with the most ticks was shown the following month. Natalie said that she could advertise it on our Facebook page, but Sheila said we had to be careful about numbers. It could be advertised on our white board.

Judy pointed out that the reason for the low turnout in September was because of the Queen's death.

13.0 NEXT AGM MEETING

Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.00pm at the Horspath Hub.