

Minutes of the Levens Village Institute AGM held on Monday 9th March 2020

Alan Miller took the chair ably assisted by John Woods.

Approximately 30 people attended (including committee members)

Apologies were received from Susie Bagot and Stephen Read

The 2019 AGM minutes had been circulated and were on the website. These were approved by all. Any matters arising would be dealt with on the agenda.

Chairs report.

Alan thanked everyone for attending and said he would like to put on record the huge contribution that Stephen Read had made to the institute. Stephen had stepped down as chair following his accident and hospitalisation: and I am sure everyone wishes him well on his road to recovery.

The Institute had fulfilled its objectives to supply a meeting place for local groups and organisation.

Alan recognised the sterling work done by committee (mentioned each by name) plus Peter Smith for the Institute draw; Peter Wood for maintenance: John Watson Ted Capstick and Paul Jones.

Bookings at the Institute. A list of organisations and the number of events was circulated. He thanked Helen Miller who took the computer bookings. He explained “swings and roundabouts” we had lost the WI but gained the yoga classed. Over 400 activities had taken place and further more

it had been challenging to balance the different requirements and times of each group.

New audio sound equipment.

At this point Hugh Connor was asked to show the new sound system bought by the institute. For the record two microphones had been set up for the AGM. Alan and John had been using them so that those at the back could hear the proceedings more clearly.

Hugh explained as well as the microphones and speakers there is a mixing desk. Entertainers (LAFS) who intended to use the hall, often asked about sound systems availabilities on site because that had to carry large amounts of equipment around the country. Now we could offer a system it was more favourable to entertainers to visit Levens.

The system was suitable for small areas as well as large and could be transferred to the new village hall quite easily.

Hugh offered to give training to those organisations who may find it useful. Alan and John thanked Hugh for his review.

Treasurers report John handed out the accounts for the current year and previous year. He explained money in had increased and the movement of money to Cambridge & Counties had given the institute interest of over £500. Other expenditure had slightly increase but this was due to the agreed changes on some accounts from Dec to March in order to resolve previous year problem.

Election of committee.

The current committee of Stephen Read (To be confirmed if he wishes to stay on) Helen Miller Alan Miller Sheila Watson Susie Bagot Kath Dawson Mary Orr Hugh Connor Chris Riley Sarah Dickinson Frank Routledge Wendy Mobbs John Wood Naomi Capstic & Mike Kemp. John Wood encouraged other to join as the committee should represent the whole village. As a result of this Bridget Barton and Fiona Saunders (Later that evening) were added to the committee. This was approved by those present.

AOB.

The meeting was then open to questions from the floor. Grant Bramwell asked about the new village hall?

John Wood pointed out that the Institute committee job was to run the institute until the new hall was built and that details of the progress of the hall could be found on the Village website and in the Parish newsletters.

The formal meeting was then closed and Simon Doderal was introduced.

Using the microphone Simon explained the origins of B4RN and how it catered for Rural communities. Levens was not ideal as it covered a wide area and as gardeners know the ground being full of stone. But he was pleased to say that the Institute was now connected and a central box located opposite the Institute.

The Government was in favour of B4RN and a scheme of money vouchers was in operation. He directed people to the website for those who had not joined.

Finally he pointed out that in some areas of Levens speeds were in single figures whereas the B4RN speed was aiming at 1000.