

HICKLING PLAYING FIELD OR RECREATION GROUND CHARITY RCN 270199

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

16th September 2019, 7.30 pm at Hickling Barn

TRUSTEES: Chairman Nick Baker, Chris Watkins, Shirley Sainsbury, Richard Booton, Gemma Scarborough, R Slatter, Louise Chicken, Vivien Tallwin, B Butcher

Apologies: Harry Purnell, M Prettyman, H Gibbons, J Wones, C Madden

Members present: 21 signed in, including Trustees. **Invited Guest:** T Cotton

Welcome and Introduction

HPFRG Trustees chairman Nick Baker opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. The rules for attending the meeting were summarised by the chairman. He asked if anyone believed that any of those present was not a member of the charity. There was no response.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 2018 AGM were presented and approved.

To receive the accounts for the financial Year 2018/2019

The accounts had been circulated to all trustees previously and posted on the Hickling Barn website but unfortunately were not available in a hard copy format for this meeting. Chairman Nick Baker asked if members present were happy for us to continue with the financial discussion. No objections were raised.

Chairman Nick Baker asked if any questions had been received on the accounts, none had been received and no response from the floor.

The treasurer Louise Chicken reported that 2018/19 had been a positive year for the Barn, with income of just under £47k and generated a surplus of £8k after expenditure of c£39k. Like last year most money had been generated through hiring the hall out i.e. seminars, parties & cinema. But, fundraising activities like the village show, MM show, quizzes & race nights and other various themed evenings continued to be vital to the Barn's success. We were successful in getting a grant to replace some gym equipment and sold the equipment being replaced. We are planning to raise the hire charges in line with inflation in January 2020 and we always welcome donations, gifts & bequests however large or small.

Looking closer at Expenses they were approximately the same as 2017/2018. Some things had increased due to contracts expiring, although we shopped around, the new tariffs were more expensive, but we continue to monitor all costs to ensure we achieve the best possible prices.

It was then proposed on the basis of the report from Farr & Associates Ltd who prepared the accounts, that the charity's accounts for the 2018/2019 financial year be received and forwarded to the Charity Commission. With a show of hands the motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman Nick Baker thanked Louise on behalf of all the Trustees for her hard work on the accounts and to pass on our appreciation to our accountant Karen Christianson of Farr & Associates.

It was pointed out that these are draft accounts until the Charity Commission approves them but they are available on the Barn website.

Report on the activities of the charity for 2018/19

Chairman Nick Baker stated that our five-year business plan which started in 2016 was aimed at ensuring the Barn and playing field continue to provide excellent community resources for everyone in Hickling. The plan provides for separate funds for a reserve – to cover emergency spending, and an improvements fund for upgrades and improvements to the inside of the barn and surrounding outside area.

IMPROVEMENTS - The biggest beneficiary of the improvement fund was when you arrived – our newly tarmacked Tate Loke, but there have been other improvements too – repainting inside the barn, paths leading to the play area and extra storage cupboards are in progress, not very glamorous but important nonetheless. Overall we spent c£25k in improvements in 2018/2019 and we are planning on spending a further £10k in the coming year for improving the acoustics and a major upgrade on the south facing big barn doors.

ACTIVITIES – Overall the footfall coming to the barn for events & activities is high as ever, with parties, the community gym & Pilates continuing to be very popular. Among the highlights were the Strawberry Fair, Village Show and the Magnificent Machinery Show was a huge success. There was a fantastic turn out for the 'Battles Over' commemoration last November which was organised in conjunction with the Parish Council.

The Trustees, management team and all the volunteers have worked extremely hard over the past year to ensure the Barn continues to be successful. The Chairman also stated that the charity continues to work with the Parish Council to ensure the barn thrives as an integral part of Hickling.

Ideas and suggestions from our Volunteer evenings were followed up and we now have a Volunteer Co-ordinator helping to organise volunteers to run some of the big events and take care of routine tasks which has made it easier for our volunteers.

HPFRGC Constitutional Change: Chairman Nick Baker explained that over the years we had offered a nominated place on the board of trustees to one of our district councillors. Those offers have never been taken up. In light of this it was proposed to replace that nominated position with an additional co-opted place – providing us more flexibility in selecting someone who can be really helpful in the running of the charity/barn. The constitution requires that this type of change is supported by a two-thirds majority of attending members in a secret ballot at a general meeting of the charity i.e. tonight's AGM meeting. If accepted the Board of Trustees would be made up of seven nominated places, four elected places and four co-opted places.

Once all members present had voted our independent scrutineer Terry Cotton counted the votes. He confirmed that 21 votes were cast, 20 in favour and 1 against – so the change to the constitution was approved

In consequence the Board of Trustees will now comprise seven nominee places, four elected places and four co-opted positions (one of which must be filled by a serving Parish Councillor in line with the Constitution).

Election of trustees:

Stakeholder group nominations were:

Brian Butcher – Phoenix Trust
Louise Chicken – Football Club
Gemma Scarborough – Hickling Parish Council
Chris Watkins – Snooker Club
Julie Wones – Hickling School
Harvey Gibbons - Methodist Chapel

The nomination for St Mary’s Church has not been filled for the time being following the resignation of the vicar Rev.D Hamilton-Grey. However this nominated place is held open for the church who are invited to take it up as soon as possible.

As Chairman Nick Baker is standing for re-election he handed over to Shirley Sainsbury as secretary, who confirmed that the following were standing for open election: Nick Baker, Richard Booton, Clare Madden, Harry Purnell. It was requested that Nick Baker & Richard Booton leave the room for the vote to be taken, (Claire Madden & Harry Purnell being absent from the meeting).

With a show of hands all the above four were elected onto the Board of Trustees. All other Trustees resigned

Policy updates - The chairman stated that all policies had been reviewed and where necessary updated.

Closing Remarks by Nick Baker – The Chairman of the Trustees commented that is now getting on for 8 years since the barn opened and thanks to its members and the hard-working team of volunteers it continues to thrive and provide a great focus for the community of Hickling. He thanked everyone for attending this evenings AGM and for their ongoing support and encouragement.

There was no other business so the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed Nick BakerChairman Dated