

MINUTES OF PRESTON VILLAGE HALL AGM
10.04.2021 VIA ZOOM.

Present. Committee: Alexander Lindsay, Barbara King, Chris Sutton, Julie Tomblin, Susan Gulliford, Ioan Jones, Rosie Jones, Alan Stone, Therese Munro-Warwick.

Apologies: Anne Mingins

Others: Mark Adams (Cotswold Yoga), Dot Warren, Tony Warren, David Rose.

Chairmans report: (copy attached)

There had been little activity in the hall in the last 12 months owing to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Time has been spent in getting risk assessments completed and making the hall safe for socially distanced activities when permitted.

IJ had worked hard on the feasibility of upgraded heating and lighting systems for the hall. He has produced a report on the relative benefits and costs of oil fired and electrical schemes for the committee to discuss.

Finance Report 01.01.2020 to 31.12.2020. (copy attached)

There has been a reduced income from hall hire this year, although the outgoings have remained fairly constant. Notable is that despite the hall now having a smart meter and the usage being much reduced, the electricity company SSE have continued to take the same amount on Direct Debit each month. **IJ** has challenged this payment and a rebate is due in 2021.

Village Halls were encouraged to apply for Small Business Grants administered through Cotswold District Council, to offset loss of income due to lockdown. **IJ** applied for this and the hall received £10,000.

Election of committee All of the current committee were willing to continue and were duly reelected.

The Future

The floor was opened to all online for comments on further desirable improvements to the hall and suggestions and volunteers to organize events.

CS Reminded us that the role of the Village Hall Committee is to maintain the hall for the use of all residents of Preston Parish. The running of events is a separate volunteer role, open to all members of the community.

The following comments were made:

DR . During events, the echo from the walls makes it difficult to follow conversations.

MA. Has to arrive at least an hour early to warm up the building. Better heating would be beneficial. The hall facilities and availability are not well published.

DW conveyed her thanks to Nic Horne and Lisa Spivey for organizing very successful Easter Trails around the village. She also proposed several events for the village.

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1. A history of Preston group plus some meeting point for young families to take part.
2. The start of some sort of Children's club for the village families.
3. More opportunity for older more lonely and isolated villagers to meet together.
4. A world map in the Hall where villagers could mark points where they had connections or relatives.

The general feeling was that when permissible, activities should start off as before, so that we can assess the demand for more or different things.

CS thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.