



Sunnyside Community Hall

Rusthall Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 8RA

Company No: 4774580

Registered Charity No: 1101737

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting On Friday 1st September 2023 at 7pm.

Attending

Ann McCue
Barrie Stringer
Eugene Gardner (chair)
Jayne Sharratt
Jenny Blackburn
Karen Gardner
Liz Day
Phil Winter
Ronnie Williams
Rosemary Romano
Sue & Nikita Hope
Toby Odone
Vic & Suzanne West

Apologies

Chris Ringer
David Funnell
Hattie Smart
Kevin Mullery
Kevin Powley
Naomi Gilbert

After a round of introductions Eugene Gardner was elected to the chair. The minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved with no matters arising. The Trustees Report of the year to 31st May 2023 was received without generating questions.

The accounts for the period were considered. Eugene reported that the Covid and Badminton Grants dropped out of the picture causing the income for the year to drop by a commensurate amount relative to the previous year. Jenny noted that the utilities were almost double the cost of the previous year, Eugene commented that this reflected a nationwide increase in energy; the projected figure for the current year was much less now that solar panels have been installed, and together with the batteries they have provided 88.5% of our electricity free in the 5 months since installation. As a result, we were using the gas boiler for hot water and extreme cold snaps only. Excess generated electricity was sent to the grid but due to the age of our meter we were not able to receive any income for this; replacement meters scheduled for installation on 18th September would remedy this.

Barrie, Phil, Toby, and Eugene were part way through their period of service as Trustees. Joby Gifford (resigned 24th April) and Kevin Powley (resigning at the end of the year) were thanked for their service. Other Trusteeships were invited but no one stepped forward. We noted that Liz remains as the Scout representative on the Trustee committee, as does Ronnie by dint of being our vicar.

Mrs Catherine Metcalfe was ratified as external auditor for a further year.

The meeting then received reports on the year's activities of

- **Rusthall Community Cinema.** Eugene reported on the highlights of the year and invited all to the AGM a week later. Ticket prices had been reduced to zero and donations were being relied upon to fund the expenses; this will help the less affluent in our community and anecdotally, those donating more than the invited £5 had roughly balanced those contributing less.

A drive to seek funding for a replacement projector has been launched on the Cinema's 7th anniversary as the current model had begun to show its limitations and a replacement (digital) one would enable a wider selection of films to be shown closer to their release date and at higher fidelity.

Nikita reported that a new Activities Manager at Rusthall Lodge was about to take post, and offered to make contact with a view to promoting the Community Cinema.

- **The table tennis group.** Toby reported that table tennis was now self-sustaining as the contribution each player made had doubled to £4 for a two-hour session including use of the training robot and a drink.

There was discussion on ways of encouraging young players: some were attending together with their parents, but safeguarding fears prevented us from allowing the under 18s to come unaccompanied. Liz (a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme Assessor) thought that even with signed parental approval it would be unwise to accept juveniles. Jayne (Editor of Rusthall Life Magazine) thought increased prominence in local press and radio may encourage parents to bring their progeny.

- **The Repair Café** was represented at the meeting by seven volunteers. Despite being limited by shortages of both skilled volunteers and clients, all who attended enjoyed their experience and it was thought likely to continue despite the concept being taken up by other localities thereby reducing the pool of available talent.

Like the Cinema there is no charge for having a repair effected, although donations are welcomed and typically, these cover the cost of hall hire. Further advertising in Parish Council and library facilities was thought likely to generate more interest. No one volunteered to take this forward.

- **The building extension** and planned badminton group had progressed well in the year as we had now secured sufficient funds to allow us to commission a builder. A little over £14,000 in grant money had been pledged and a further £5,000 was pending a decision by the possible benefactor. Our own reserves would cover the outstanding amount, thought to be in the region of £27,000. A grant of £4,500 had been received from Sport England and this would enable a badminton group to be started once the building extension was complete.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:45pm.