

Hannington Village Association
Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

of the meeting held in the Function Room, the Vine, on Tuesday 21st November, 2017, at 7.30pm

Present:	Humphrey Spaight	Hannington PCC
	Alan Hancock	Hannington Silver Band
	Maggie Hughes	Hannington WI
	Debbie Thornton	Hannington Village Hall & Michael's Field
	Tania Brookes	Michael's Field
	Sean Cannon	Hannington Village Hall
	Robert Finlayson	Hannington Parish Council & Michael's Field
	Barbara Macmurchy	Treasurer

Rob Rushmer, Jan Hertz, Pippa Sarsfield Hall, Pat Sarsfield Hall, Anthea Smithers, Jeff Smithers.

1. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Littleton was elected to take the chair for the meeting.
2. The minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2016 were taken as read and approved as a correct record of the meeting. There were no matters arising.
3. a) The Treasurer presented her report, saying that the profit from the 2107 Fair had restored the accounts to a surplus, even taking into account the up-front costs of putting on another Fair (these now being around £7,000).

The discussion now turned to whether any of the village activities needed extra funding. Tania Brookes, for Michael's Field, said that the costs of cutting the grass are to rise by £45 per cut, to a minimum of £2000 per year. She explained that the new pavilion meant that grass cutting has become more important in order to encourage more high-profile teams to use the Field. She also said that the cost of ensuring that the play equipment is covered by a professional contractor will come in as a new cost (it has not been covered in this way before). She hopes that the defective parts of the equipment themselves will be met by grants, and is half-way to achieving this goal. The difficulty Michael's Field faces is that it is used by the villagers and others as an amenity; it must therefore be regarded as largely a public good, paid for by the village.

In subsequent discussion, various points were made, including:

- that the cutter does a very good job;
- that villagers have volunteered to cut the grass in the past but that this has never lasted for long and that in the end a professional does it much quicker and more reliably;

- that Michael's Field belongs to the village and therefore the village has a responsibility to look after it (funds raised at the recent Village Quiz being a case in point);
- that the new pavilion looks extremely good and that Tania and her team should be congratulated on raising the necessary funds).

Finally it was proposed, and generally agreed, that the grant to Michael's Field should be increased to £3,000 for 2018 and to £2,500 for 2019.

b) Humphrey Spaight asked, When can claimants claim their funds, and Would it help the Treasurer if claimants could use internet banking rather than cheques? The responses were, any time after the AGM for the next year's funding, and No for reasons which the Treasurer would explain shortly.

c) Maggie Hughes asked if the WI could have an extra £20, saying that the WI tried hard to raise their own funds, but that at £150 they are among the lowest claimants in the village. She added that the WI work hard to support the village; as an example, many of the cakes baked for the 2017 Fair were given free by members. It was proposed, and generally agreed, that the WI's grant should be raised to £200 in 2018.

d) The Treasurer then said that the signature list for the current set of accounts is out of date and proposed that she should close the current current account and open a new one in the name of the Hannington Country Fair. It was quickly agreed that the account should be called the Hannington Village Association account. She then said that the internet banking arrangements were held up largely because of this signature problem and that she would go back to the Bank with a fresh set of up-to-date signatures.

4. The meeting then moved to discussing the next Country Fair. Amongst the points made in the general discussion were:
 - a) Some people in the village had asked if it was necessary to have a Fair in 2019. Whilst there was some sympathy for the suggestion of a holiday it was agreed that for the continuing cohesion of the village and for the maintenance of background knowledge we should stick to the present biennial arrangements.
 - b) Some people, especially those touting for prizes, had found that there was an increased reluctance to give as the Fair does not give money to charity. Despite the fact that we have had this discussion before and agreed not to fund general charities, it was agreed that we should revisit this decision. Any charity chosen must be local and we must consider carefully the proportion of profits given.
 - c) An important point of which the Village Association may have lost sight is that the Fair needs the permission of the landowners (Messrs Lowrie, Shortt and May and the Kennels, amongst others). It was agreed that we must ensure that they are happy for us to continue to use their land and that we are not taking this, or them, for granted.
 - d) In the past the Fair had been run by a Chairman helped by a number of volunteers in charge of major aspects (Catering, Sideshows, Publicity, Car Parking etc). Jeff Smithers said that the Chairman position is always difficult to fill and that an alternative could be to replace this role with two or three co-ordinators who could share the decisions and thereby reduce the workload and time/input for families who are busy with families and/or work.

- e) It was suggested that if the village green/Westfield combination proved too difficult to manage, it might be possible to have the Fair on Michael's Field and move the car parking elsewhere. This suggestion did not find much favour in the general discussion.

Finally it was agreed that:

- f) There should be a Fair in 2019;
 - g) The Secretary would circulate round the village a paper asking for volunteers to help run the Fair and for views on giving to local charities, including which charities and how much should be given away.
5. Any other business. The Secretary announced that he had been secretary for at least ten or twelve years and that he would like to retire at the next Village Association meeting. (In fact, upon looking it up, he finds it has been at least twenty years. Too long for any self-respecting organisation.)