

SECOND ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING

29th November 2021 7.30 pm

Bishop Wilton Village Hall

Attendees:

Colin Pollock (Chairman)

David Gaskin (Treasurer)

Ingrid Haywood (Secretary)

Annina Diston (Committee)

Emma Stamford (Committee)

Rory Innes (Committee)

Sue Dixon (Shop Manager)

Ruth Mardall (Shop Cleaner)

Plus additional members (see attached sheet)

Apologies: Chris Webb, Roy & Anne Sumpner, Jill Dixon-Carter, Mrs Hargreaves

1. Establishing quorum and welcome

A quorum was declared (a minimum of 24 members needed) and the meeting opened at 7.35pm. Colin thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their support as members of the society. He then introduced the committee and shop staff.

2. Chairman's report on the last year

Colin gave his report on the last year. There are now 240 members which represents approximately half of village households. The committee are keen to streamline communication with members by use of emails where possible. He offered his thanks to all our volunteers and customers throughout the year. We have had around 32,000 separate customer transactions in the shop in the last year.

He thanked Louise Butcher and Sally Smith, who left the committee this year, especially for their work in setting up the shop and seeing it through its first two years of being open. He thanked Ingrid for taking on the role of Society Secretary and the hard work of both our employees Sue and Ruth.

There are currently 65 active volunteers who have put in 8,000+ hours in this year.

Colin reported on the range of products stocked including the Bishop Wilton branded range and thanked everyone involved in stock buying. He gave a report on the café which reopened in August when Covid measures were lifted and emphasised the shop is a community hub that anyone can use. Finally, he thanked all those involved in

maintenance in the shop as well as those who look after health and safety of staff and customers.

3. Treasurer's report

David presented the financial report and accounts to the year end June 2021 including an update on spending and sales.

A vote was taken on a resolution not to appoint auditors. This was passed on a show of hands. A vote was then taken to appoint David Cadwallader & Co as reporting accountants. This was passed on a show of hands.

David expressed his thanks to volunteer bookkeepers David Borrett, Sue Dixon and Claire Gaskin for their help with accounts.

4. Members' questions

Questions were then taken from members on the previous two items.

- a) How much waste is generated? David stated the figure for waste and discounts together is around 1.7% of sales.
- b) How do sales differ per day? Saturday morning is the busiest, Sunday the second busiest and afternoons tend to be busier than mornings.
- c) Are there any other newspaper suppliers? Unfortunately not, as Menzies has the monopoly of supply to the North of England. Colin apologised for the poor service experienced in the last few months.
- d) Has the shop considered an ordering service? Sue is trialling an order for Xmas products. We do not offer a general delivery service, although a service is available for those isolating due to the ongoing pandemic.

5. Community benefit reserve

David talked through the committee's package of proposals to utilise £5000 of the cash reserves it currently holds as a 'return of investment' to the community as part of the society's core role. He emphasised that the committee did not want to offer an interest payment to shareholders this year.

The proposals include:

- A volunteer discount scheme of 5% for the first nine months of 2022 (estimated to cost £2250).
- Provide a £10 off a £20 shop Xmas voucher to every household in the parish, volunteers and regular customers from outside the parish (estimated to cost £1750).
- Set aside a sum of £1000 to help kickstart a local community development and improvement fund in conjunction with other key local bodies in the village.

David answered a number of questions on the reasoning behind the proposals. A vote was then taken by a show of hands and the proposals were carried.

Break for refreshments where members were able to try some new products.

6. The year ahead – challenges & possibilities

Rory presented a number of slides setting out some of the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead for the shop in its third year of operation. The committee are seeking members' views on which priorities it should focus on in order to strike a balance between opening hours, volunteer availability, profitability and how much paid staff time we have. The committee see that there are six ways the shop can remain sustainable and successful going forward.

- Push for more volunteers
- Free up shop manager by reducing her time spent on administration
- Reduce numbers of volunteers per shift
- Reduce shop opening hours
- Change how volunteers book their shifts
- Use current profits to manage staff gaps & hard-to-fill shifts

Members were asked to discuss these in small groups and then rank in their preferred order. The results will be collated and discussed later by the committee.

7. Election / declaration of new committee members

Emma Stamford, Annina Diston, David Gaskin, Ingrid Haywood, Rory Innes, and Colin Pollock remain on the committee as their terms of office continue for at least another 12 months.

The committee has received a nomination for Caroline Fuller to stand for election to the committee. The committee is allowed under rules to have up to a maximum of 12 people. An immediate vote was taken therefore on a resolution to approve Caroline's nomination to the management committee. This was passed by a show of hands.

8. Final members' questions and close

There were no final questions from members and the meeting closed at 9.36pm

The annual accounts are available on request.