

**CHALFONT ST GILES SHOW
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2023 AT 8PM
READING ROOM, HIGH STREET,
CHALFONT ST GILES**

MINUTES

Present:

From the Committee:

Paul Buchanan (Hon President), Simon Swerling (Chair), Grant Kirkby (Treasurer), Eleanor O'Connor (Secretary), Des Bray, Vicky Hinds, Stephen Hinds, Peter Scott, Chris Drury and Gary Jackson.

Also present:

Kathleen Martin, Roger Palmer, Alison Fifield, John Bradley, Joan Bishop and Andy Murphy.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Vince Parry, Tony Hook, Barbara Conheaney, Mary Holloway, Lizzie Rawlinson, Carl Jackson, Garry Brown, Caroline Jackson and Rob Gill.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Approval of the minutes of the last AGM held on Tuesday 6th December 2022 were proposed by Des Bray, seconded by Vicky Hinds, and agreed by those present.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. President's Report

Paul Buchanan reported as follows:

Good evening everyone, thank you for coming tonight.

A year ago, I reported that we were back to "business as usual" with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a return to Stone Meadow after the pandemic.

This year was just as busy with The King's Coronation Street Party and the Show on Stone Meadow back into full swing.

We were honoured at being chosen as one of four Street Parties out of 67,000, to receive a royal visit for the King's Coronation and as a result our village was beamed around the world.

The Village Show was similar in size to last year's with everything on Stone Meadow and appeared to be a great success judging by the majority of feedback we received.

With two well-attended sunny events, a healthy surplus has been recorded. This was helped greatly by bringing the Beer Marquee back "in house". Many thanks to

our army of volunteers who made this possible along with everything else you do. Huge thanks also to our fantastic committee who work year round to make the magic happen.

Next year, we're planning to revert to just holding the Village Show, so there won't be a Street Party.

Finally, I would like thank Simon, who is standing down as Chairman, for his many years of incredible stewardship. His support, especially in setting up the Showground, is legendary! Hopefully, Simon will stay on the committee, despite his ever-increasing workload.

5. Chairman's Report

Simon Swerling reported as follows:

I am honoured and thank you for your kind words. Thanks to everyone who has made my tenure as chair so easy. The committee we have now is fantastic. A lot of people stood down with the last chair, so Garry Brown and I decided I would have to be chair. Over the years, we have managed to get more committee members. Today there is a fantastic group of people that make the show what it is and it doesn't come without hard effort. Volunteers also make it happen. I would like to thank everyone for working so hard.

I will be standing back but will be involved with physically putting on the show. I won't be regularly attending the meetings.

6. Treasurer's Report and Accounts - including appointment of an Auditor

Grant Kirkby circulated copies of the accounts to those present and summarised as follows:

This year we had two very successful events. Both the Street Party to celebrate the Coronation and the Show were very well received, especially the Royal visitors.

On the sheets handed out the blue columns relate to the show and green to the street party. The street party generated a surplus of £ 6,053, £906 more than in 2022. Table sales were down by £1,050 against last year. Sponsorship was increased by £1,650 and a big thanks is due to all our sponsors.

This year we provided the fun fair, face painter and magician all free of charge. In previous years, the operators charged and gave a small amount to us. So this year there was no income for this. We did, however, benefit from two significant donations to fund these activities: £500 from the Revitalisation Group and £2,995 from the Community Board. Many thanks to both these organisations and other donors.

The only item of note in the expenditure is the events being £3,261 higher than 2022. This is the cost of funding the fun fair and other free entertainment as previously explained.

Now moving onto the show in the blue columns. The surplus after depreciation was £11,148, some £10,105 higher than the previous year. Income was £15,465 higher due to three major factors:

Gate receipts were £3,699 higher due to higher numbers and reinstating child tickets. The auction generated £2,970 some £1,460 higher than the previous year. Thanks to all those who donated prizes and to Carly for organising.

The largest improvement in income was catering: £7,635 higher than the previous year. The main contributor here was the beer tent: this was taken in-house this year and manned by volunteers. Many thanks to Susan Ramsden, Rob Gill's sister, who was the licensee on the day, and other family members.

Expenses were £5,532 higher than in 2022. We spent £1,763 more on events which included the free face painters. We have had more committee meetings this year, largely around the street party, and the ticketing cost increases relate to a 5% take from entry fees. This is being addressed and Rob Gill is looking at an in-house online sales system for next year.

Capital expenditure was £786. This was for some card readers and guttering for gazebos.

The cash position has increased by £17,000 from £59,000 to £76,000. This is in a very healthy position and is a result of consolidating the street party and the show.

Paul has received feedback about offering a family ticket for next year and this will be discussed by the committee. Feedback generally was positive regarding the ticket prices. The prices are not expensive when other shows offering similar entertainment are taken into account.

Vicky noted that catering did well because the tea tent was also successful. Carly had asked for donations of cakes rather than buying them in.

Charitable Funding Proposal

Grant explained that there will be no funding in 2024 from the street party as there will be no party. He proposed a donation limit this year of £7,500 which is lower than the profits made but there are capital items that the committee wishes to invest in. Last year it was agreed that the committee would have leeway to make decisions about extra donations if exceptions arose and he asked that that be agreed again.

The sum of £7,500 reflects the good year we've had but will enable us to buy capital items.

Since 1994, ie, the last 30 years, we have given £120,000 to 84 different organisations, an average of £4,000 per year.

John Bradley proposed the amount as recommended, Joan Bishop seconded and agreed by those present.

Grant reported that Vince Parry has confirmed that the accounts have been audited and he intends to sign them accordingly.

Election of Auditor – Grant Kirkby nominated Vince Parry and this was seconded by Simon Swerling, and agreed by those present.

7. Election of the Executive Committee 22/23:

The Chair and Treasurer are standing down and new appointments need to be made. The Hon President's term of office is completed.

Hon President – Paul Buchanan was nominated for the role again by Eleanor O'Connor and he agreed to stand. This was seconded by Kathleen Martin and his appointment was agreed by all present.

Chair – Grant Kirkby was nominated by Eleanor O’Connor and he agreed to stand. This was seconded by John Bradley and his appointment was agreed by all present.

Treasurer – Andrew Murphy was nominated by Eleanor O’Connor and he agreed to stand. This was seconded by Des Bray and his appointment was agreed by all present.

Secretary – Eleanor O’Connor agreed to remain in post if agreed by those present. She was nominated by Paul Buchanan, seconded by Grant Kirkby and agreed by all present.

It was agreed that rest of the committee members be appointed in total rather than individually as follows:

Des Bray, Garry Brown, Barbara Conheaney, Chris Drury, Rob Gill, Martin Hill, Vicky Hinds, Stephen Hinds, Tony Hook, Gary Jackson, Lizzie Rawlinson, Peter Scott, Simon Swerling and Carly Sweales were proposed by Joan Bishop, seconded by Roger Palmer, and the appointments were agreed by those present.

8. Date of next year’s show

Saturday 7th September 2024. Paul noted that this should be a good year because the schools will be back by then and hopefully more families will be back from holiday.

9. Carol Nolder Cup

This cup is awarded to a person who is not on the committee who has made an exceptional contribution to the show. Paul announced that the committee had decided to award the cup to Roger Palmer, who has been the announcer for twenty years. Chris Drury presented him with the cup.

10. Any Other Business:

Vicky suggested “Day of the Dinosaur” as the theme for the 2024 show. This will be decided by the committee.

Paul thanked everyone present for attending.

The meeting closed at 20.35 hours.