

ALFORD CORN EXCHANGE COMMUNITY GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE ALFORD CORN EXCHANGE 7.30PM FRIDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Present: H Dewick-Eisele (Chairman), J Taylor (Vice-Chair), N Calvert, J Hynes, S Lyster, K Walsh, N O'Farrell, A Taylor

Total of 11 members of public, including members of the Alford Corn Exchange Group and Cllr Richard Quantrell
In attendance: A Hill

J Hynes welcomed all those present

1. To record attendance and receive apologies

Apologies were received from Angie Dewick Eisele and Lucy Laquaniello.

2. Approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 6th September 2019

It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the minutes as presented be approved.

3. Receive the annual audited accounts for the years ending 31st March 2020 and 31st March 2021

Copies were made available to all present and noted. Thanks were given to Bob Stephenson for auditing the accounts.

H Dewick-Eisele referenced the following points -

In 2020 activity was starting to build up, however was then impacted by COVID 19 causing 'general sales' to drop from £45,324 in 2019/20 to £9,523 in 2020/21. Loans of £70,000 were taken out in 2019/20, and repaid in 2020/21. Wages were as expected in 2019/20, but dropped in 2021 due to little activity in the hall. Support was received from Central Government in 2021. At the end of 2020/21 we had a reasonable balance in the account, of just over £19,000.

Thanks were given to L Croft who has kindly been providing book keeping services for free and to P and G Davies who undertook much of the work during the pandemic for free.

4. Receive the Trustees' Annual Report and Update from the Chairman

Reference was made to £10,000 donation received from the Town Council. The main funding for the period has been raised from the Leader Programme.

The pandemic has caused the majority of events to stop. The Corn Exchange (CX) has come through a difficult year with the group intact and it was pleasing to note that it is now in a strong position.

There are two Trustees retiring this year and four new Trustees applications, and it was noted that it was welcome to find people so engaged in the Group.

Andrew Hill has been taken on as the new manager during the period, and Tony Robinson as the new caretaker / cleaner.

The hall is now renovated and its future is looking good with events now starting again. The group is aiming to focus on inclusion and attracting more age groups, particularly younger age groups, to the hall.

5. Receive the Vice Chair's Report.

The last event before the pandemic was the Australian Breakfast where the CX raised over £2,000 for the Australian firefighters.

The hall has now started to get going following the pandemic with funeral teas, Friday morning cafes, dancing, and a race night in the calendar.

It has taken over 8 years to get to this point and some items are now starting to wear out.

This is something that will need to be looked at as people have high expectations of the CX.

The Christmas Lunch is being reinstated this year, on the 5th December. If anyone has any local residents that they feel should be invited please contact A Hill, the Manager.

Janet Taylor announced that she is stepping back a little and thanked the volunteers for their support.

6. Receive the Renovation Grant Report.

At the last meeting reference was made to proposed work on the glass roof, air conditioning, removal of the suspended ceiling, toilets, opening up the balcony and the creation of an upstairs room. Since that meeting all of this renovation work has now been completed, much of it by Richard Dale.

Reference was made to the extra challenges brought about by COVID 19. Thanks were made to Pat Davies for covering for N O'Farrell as Project Manager while he was ill. Thanks were also made to Neil Riley and Katie Walsh for the great job they had done on the décor.

It was noted that CX would not have been successful in obtaining the grant without the help of Harry Dewick-Eisele and Judy Bell and others from the Leadership programme.

Andy Taylor gave an update on the Lincs Rural Touring Programme. The CX is looking to host 2 events in the New Year so (February / March 2021) and from past experience these tend to be well attended. It was noted that people are now starting to book again and so the outlook is looking good for the CX.

7. Retirement (and re-election) of one third of the trustees.

John Hynes, election officer explained that as per the constitution 1/3 of the trustees were required to stand down. N O'Farrell retired. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept his retirement. It was further proposed, seconded and unanimously voted that he be re-elected.

K Walsh and S Lyster have decided to retire as Trustees and the Group expressed their thanks for all the work they have done for the CX. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept their retirement.

J Hynes was delighted to say that there are 4 new Trustees who have put themselves up for election – Lizzie Arrowsmith, Sarah Devereux, Zoe Hawkins and Lucy Laquaniello. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously voted that they be elected.

8. Any other business appropriate for an AGM.

a. It was asked if a loop system could be installed. The Group will investigate.

b. Janet Taylor thanked H Dewick-Eisele for his leadership and direction.

c. Richard Quantrell noted that the Town Council were very grateful for everything that Harry Dewick-Eisele and his team have done for the CX. Thanks to his leadership and to the Trustees they have brought a love for the building back to the town.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.02pm