

MATTERDALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held in **The Studio** at **The Royal Hotel, Dockray**

at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 11th June 2024

1. Veronica welcomed all to the A.G.M. and thanked them for coming.

Present:- Veronica Gore (chair); Mark Nixon; Jane Newport; Alison Ball; Simon Ball; Emma Bray; Peter Crofts; Anna Williams; Steve Williams; Holly Ball; Joe Ball; Linda Crossley; Clive Deurden; Ali Dixon; Tine Foster; David Garner; Paul Goodman; Carla Pont; Helen Reed; Michael Reed; Will Slater; Jean Wilson

Apologies:- Brian Clark; David Harrison; Paddy Palmer

2. Minutes of the AGM held at Matterdale Church Meeting Room on 5th September 2023 – Links to these, on the MCA website, had been circulated before the meeting, with some copies available at the meeting. They were accepted as accurate.
3. Matters Arising – none.
4. Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statement. Links to these, on the MCA website, had been circulated before the meeting, with some copies available at the meeting.

In particular, Veronica thanked Alison Ball for revitalising the website and keeping it up to date; Mark Nixon for preparing the accounts and liaison with the Charity Commission; Jane Newport and Paddy Palmer for taking minutes; and all the trustees and others who have helped during the year.

Discussions on the potential Community Hall are ongoing – see item 6 below.

We would like to increase the number of members of the MCA as some have left the area. There are paper forms and an on-line form, so please encourage others to join to show their support for the community.

In addition to the events covered in Helen Reed's report (attached) there have been weekly outdoor fitness classes on the meadow at the Royal, badminton sessions at Watermillock Village Hall and Nature Group activities, which have been greatly helped by the technical skills of Carla Pont.

Mark told the meeting that we had a surplus of around £900 for the year, mainly from Burns Night, the Folk Night and the Shanty Evening. In addition, around £700 had been raised by the performance of "A Christmas Carol" in aid of the local Salvation Army Food Bank. We have had a grant of £500 towards a marquee for the Summer Day event in August of which £150 has been paid as a deposit. A further £500 has been allocated by Matterdale Parish Council.

Veronica thanked Helen Reed for **her excellent** chairing the Virtual Village Hall committee and **her leadership**. **She** noted that Helen would be standing down as chair in August, so we would be looking for a new chair. Helen Reed reported on the past events (see attached) and drew attention to upcoming events:

- a pub games night planned for 23rd June;
- a community rounders match on the recreation field on 20th July.

- The Big Summer Day on 10th August with sports, Dog show, Dog agility, lots of bands and animals, food and drink will be available to purchase, and a Wishing Tree with lots of discounted vouchers.
- On 4th October there will be another Harvest Supper joint with WVH with bring and share food and Line Dancing again.
- Dates to be decided - Beetle Drive; croquet; quizzes

Ideas for future events include Karaoke; Old School Disco; Film Night; craft sessions; watching Wimbledon with Strawberries and Cream; and maybe even Ballroom dancing? It is hoped that there will be another one-off performance from the players. If you have any ideas for a suitable play and/or would like to be involved, please contact Gordon Lightburn or Helen Reed.

Any other ideas for events would be gratefully received, and if you would like to be involved then please let Helen know, particularly if you would be prepared to take over as chair of the VVH for the next 2 years.

Paul Goodman thanked Helen for her staggering achievements as chair of the VVH.

Veronica thanked Ali Dixon for his help and support particularly in making The Studio available to the community for the coming few months.

5. Election of Trustees.

No new trustees had come forward. The four retiring trustees were all prepared to stand for reappointment and were duly elected as follows:-

- Emma Bray – proposed Michael Reed, seconded Jane Newport, approved by show of hands.
- Veronica Gore - proposed Emma Bray, seconded Alison Ball, approved by show of hands.
- David Harrison - proposed Paul Goodman, seconded Mark Nixon, approved by show of hands
- Jane Newport- proposed Peter Crofts, seconded Simon Ball, approved by show of hands.

6. Discussion of the way forward.

- a. **Community Centre** – Veronica read an extract from an email from David Brown, clerk to the Matterdale School Foundation which explained that MSF were actively considering a new design for the buildings on the recreation field. The costs have not been fully worked up, but once they have been the proposed building scheme would be presented to the Matterdale community for consideration, along with an alternative within the existing objects of the charity.
- b. **Activities** – The following ideas came from the floor as suggestions for further activities
 - Whist Drive
 - Bridge
 - Sheep shearing
 - Yoga
 - Pilates
 - Crafts such as wreath making; wrapping paper making; Danish paper crafts
 - Table Tennis – Mark Nixon has a table
 - Various screenings – do we need a portable projector and big screen?

c. **Other Matters to Consider** – In view of the profits made Mark Nixon asked whether MCA Trustees are in a position to make small grants to young people, for such things as music lessons, **other suggestions from the floor were putting the profits towards the new build centre, or towards a charity.** This should be discussed.

7. Any Other Business - none

8. Date of Next Meeting – to be decided but the aim is to have it around this time next year.

VVH Report 2023/24

It has been another busy year in terms of the social events taking place in Matterdale.

In April we held a Folk Night at Watermillock Village Hall which attracted a great crowd and was a big success. Huge thanks to Peter Crofts for organising the event and putting together a fantastic programme of performers as well as providing the music for the dancing. Thanks to all who participated. A good time was had by all.

In May we enjoyed a Fun Day to celebrate the King's Coronation. Held on the lawn at The Royal we had music from the Steel Pans, a novelty dog show where Simon Ball's Corky won the best puppy under One as he had only made it the day before! The Crown competition was also a big crowd pleaser and all in all it was a great community event.

Quizzes at The Royal have continued to be a staple of our entertainment programme. Nick Ratcliffe was quizmaster in June, and the Ball Family ran one in September with some great inventive rounds to keep the little grey cells active. Emma and Helen ran a Christmas quiz together which was very well attended. Brian also organised another Beetle Drive at The Royal in November - this proved to be very popular and again brought out the competitive spirit in the Matterdale community. Thanks to Brian for also organising the Golf Croquet at Langwathby in September with bring and share food back at The Knotts.

The VVH committee has continued to organise a monthly film club, and a weekly outdoor fitness class and The Nature Group has continued with the habitat survey in Matterdale. This is the first organised habitat survey of its kind in the Lake District.

In December for one night only, the Ullswater Players performed their World Premiere production of A Christmas Carol. Abridged by Holly Ball and ably directed by Gordon Lightburn the event played to a packed house. It was indeed a most festive event. Thanks to all those involved in set building, costume, lighting and performing. Special mention to Simon Ball and Gina Farncombe for the amazing lightbox staging and set back drop. Profit from ticket sales together with donations meant we were able to make a donation of around £600 to the Salvation Army community foodbank. The UP are planning another production for Dec 2024 and are considering scripts and options. If anyone is interested in being involved get in touch with Gordon or myself.

Burns Supper in January - run jointly with WVH. Thanks to Brian for again masterminding this very popular event which seems to have become a regular feature. The Bald Mountain Band played for us and Sally the Caller did an excellent job corralling those of us with two left feet! I am sure we will be running another BS in 2025 so watch this space!

In March we held a Sea Shanty singing evening. Jonathan aka Shanty Man led the singing. This was a most enjoyable evening. Thanks to Jane Newport for organising this.

We have had various events connected with the church such as the Palm Sunday walk and service, and the MCA helped with decorating the church for Christmas - the windows were beautifully decorated according to the themes of the various local groups eg badminton, steel pans cycling, book groups. This has led to the idea a flower festival possibly for 2025.

We have since had another quiz and a very successful Treasure Hunt and we have a pub games night planned for 23rd June and a community rounders match on the rec field in July.

The Summer Day committee are also working hard in preparation of another Big Summer Day on 10th August. Even bigger and better than the last one we will have sports, Dog show Dog agility, lots of bands and animals. Food and drink will be available to purchase and there will be another Wishing Tree with lots of discounted vouchers for dinners, paddleboards, theatre vouchers and much much more.

In October there will be another Harvest Supper joint with WVH with bring and share food and Line dancing again. Marilyn and John will lead the dancing so get your stetsons and cowboy boots ready!

Ideas for future events include Karaoke, Old School Disco, Film Night, craft sessions, watching Wimbledon with Strawbs and Cream, and maybe even Ballroom dancing? Any other ideas for events are gratefully received

Finally I will be coming to end of my two years in the role of chair of VVH this August/September. I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all the committee members for their fantastic ideas and involvement in putting on all these events. A lot of hard work goes into making these events a success. We welcome new members to the social events committee and of course if anyone is interested in taking over the role of chair please let us know.

And thank you all for your support!

Helen Reed 11/6/24

Chair of Virtual Village Hall Committee