



# Debenham Village Hall & Playing Field Trust 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting - 18th May, 2010

## Minutes Of Meeting

### **Board Members Present:**

Suzie Morley, Dennis Morley, Martin Durie.

### **Apologies:**

George Durie

### **Accountant:**

Chris Bassett

### **DSL Managers:**

Mel Aldis, Sue Thurlow, Steve Spurling

### **Members of the Public:**

Jane Baldwin, Ian Baldwin, Mick Morley, Laurie Stock, Lynn Cockerton, Frankie Winrow-Griffin, Jo Middleton, Chris Webb, Fred Scott, Kathie Guthrie, Tony Hutt, John Rogers, Richard Squirell, Bill Mahood, Richard Blackwell, Jodie Rogers

### **Minutes of previous meeting:**

Approved and signed by the Chairman

### **Election of Trustees:**

As the regulations of the DVH&PFT Trust determine, half the Board members stood down at the AGM - on this occasion Suzie Morley and George Durie. They will be re-elected [if they so wish] at the next Committee meeting.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Suzie Morley read her report as Chair of the Trust and outlined the Organisation structure and introduced Steve Spurling who would join the Team on 2nd June. She thanked 2 previous Board Members, David Hughes and Richard Blackwell who had served with energy and enthusiasm for many years on the Trust.

### **Accounts Report:**

Chris Bassett gave a report and overview of the previous financial year. Expenditure exceeded income to produce an overall loss of £19,000 including depreciation. However there was an overall surplus of approximately £6000 of non-restricted funds. The financial position was more healthy than it had been for 4 or 5 years.

### **Questions/Comments:**

**Richard Blackwell:** Will we get £25,000 from MSDC next year? The Finance department say it will probably not continue funding us. MSDC have been very supportive over the years and a loss of £25K would leave a huge hole in the Trust's finances.

**Kathie Guthrie:** People who use the DSL car park should pay, it is not a public car park.

# Debenham

## Sports & Leisure



**Mick Morley:** The DSL is a key service centre, and provides services at very low cost. MSDC should be reminded of this.

**Dennis Morley:** New financial controls have only been in operation for 8 months

**Frankie Winrow-Giffin:** Asked why Membership fees had doubled? The Chairman pointed out that this was not the case - prices had gone up 10%, but because some Members had not had a price increase for years, their fees had gone up substantially. Frankie also suggested that there was a lot of faulty equipment in the Fitness Studio - not the case - a maintenance and service programme is in place. However our cashflow is not sufficient at the moment to replace some older pieces of equipment.

**Tony Hutt:** Complained about the poster and graph showing the improved financial position - where was the detail? The Chairman pointed out that the detail could be found in the accounts, the DSL Website and the Charity Commission Website.

**Laurie Stock:** Asked about the 'mood' of the Bank. The Chairman replied that the overdraft had been converted to a loan, which helps with the interest. Greene King have been very supportive, but they and the Bank [Nat West] have a charge on the asset. We had no choice but to take out a Green King loan or the DSL would have closed. December and January had been very difficult months with bad weather and many cancelled events.

**Frankie Winrow-Giffin:** Questioned the value of Zeera's and the loss of the kitchen on income. It was pointed out that Zeera's provide us with a regular rental income, and that many Caterers come in ready prepared for events. They require serviceable, functional space rather than a kitchen. Environmental Health rules are an issue with kitchens, and the rules change frequently.

**Mick Morley:** Complimented Zeera's on delivering very good curry and being a very welcome, additional facility for the Village.

**Jo Middleton:** Highlighted issues of the Skate Board Park [and Project D] and said that the Trust was in danger of 'alienating' the U16's in the community. There followed a long discussion regarding the Skate Board Park. It was agreed that a meeting of the Trust and Project D team was needed in the near future.

**John Rogers:** Told the meeting that the 'Friends of the DSL' had only 4 members left and that reinforcements/volunteers were urgently needed. It was also pointed out by Dennis Morley that The Trust was also urgently in need of reinforcements. The Board was not a closed shop, even though the 4 Directors came from 2 families.

**Jodie Rogers:** Suggested that the DSL needed to 'market' its activities better so that the village knew what was going on.

### **Date for Next AGM:**

17th May at 7.30pm

The meeting closed.