

DEBENHAM VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELD TRUST
Gracechurch Street, Debenham, Stowmarket, Suffolk, IP14 6BL.

44th Annual General Meeting – 2nd June 2009.

The following people attended the AGM:

David Hughes, Richard Blackwell, George Durie, Martin Durie, Suzie Morley, Mel Aldis, Tony Hutt , Chris Bassett, Mick Morley, Kathie Guthrie, D.Lawrence, Bridget Anderson, Stephen Anderson, Louise Hammond, Gary French, Ben Mead, Evie Rogers, John Rogers, Erin Mead, Tana Mead, Kate Scott, Chris Webb, Jodie Burrows, Eddy Alcock, Fred Scott, Lynne Cockerton, Carol Williamson, Chris Fry and Sarah Hughes.

1. Apologies for absence: None offered.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM and matters arising.

Kathie Guthrie asked that the minutes be amended to include the word funding so the final part of what she had said read, “could have a bearing on the future funding of the centre.”

The minutes, as amended, were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Chairman’s report.

The chair’s report was presented to the meeting. David highlighted several items in his report, the major ones being:

- The current economic climate that has affected the centre
- The necessity that a price review be undertaken at the centre
- Funding from MSDC has been secured and dialogue with the parish council continues
- The formation of the ‘Friends of Debenham Leisure Centre’
- A new trustee/director Suzie Morley
- A new brand for the centre – Debenham Sports and Leisure

Carol Williamson (temporary parish clerk) raised the issue about the £15,000 donation from the parish council still being on the table and that DLC had not met with the pc to progress. Richard Blackwell pointed out to the meeting that due to some recent personal circumstances relating to the clerk, we (DLC) had been asked to refrain from any communication with the clerk on this matter until further notice. As time had moved on since then DLC would be very willing to progress once more.

Mick Morley expressed a wish that the discussions would be successful but acknowledged the difficulties the pc had had regarding finding an appropriate method of providing the funding within the strict rules they are bound by.

4. Accountant’s Report.

Chris Bassett presented the accounts to the meeting and went through them in some detail.

Noted that the overall income and expenditure totals had remained more or less constant with last year. This was felt to be a good performance given the tight economic climate we have been operating in and the significant increases in heating and electricity costs.

The overall position at the end of the year was a loss of £47,386 of which £25,328 was from restricted funds which meant effectively the trading loss for the year was £22,058 which is a big improvement on the loss of the previous year of £33,735.

The tight cash flow position continues to be a difficult management exercise that requires continual monitoring. The board of directors has renegotiated part of the overdraft facility to be a longer term loan which attracts a better rate of interest so will be cheaper in the long term.

David Hughes acknowledged the significant help the centre has received from Greene King by allowing us to have extended credit terms to help overcome some of the issues being faced.

5. Presentations for Achievements during the year.

The board were delighted to be able to make some presentations for achievements made during the past year.

Richard Blackwell spoke about the enormous contribution that Eddy Alcock had made to the centre over a protracted period of service to the centre and wanted everyone to recognize the huge contribution this had made to the centre by way of grant funding in excess of £1.2m being raised. Eddy had already received a lifetime membership of the centre to recognize this achievement and the directors felt it worthy to mention this again tonight.

Suzie Morley presented a 'most improved' squash player to Alex Huband from the High School as identified by Denis Morley who runs the squash coaching at the centre. Denis was also congratulated as he has recently been appointed as the eastern region 'England Squash' representative. We wish him every success in this new role.

Gary French spoke of the youth football teams that are based at the centre and how they are the envy of many other clubs due to the facilities provided. The ladies football team has won the double this year (and last year) and are doing particularly well. There are over 200 registered youngsters playing youth football every Saturday at the centre. Teams range from under 8's up to under 16's and include 3 girls teams. The club is a prime target for ITFC scouts who are known to be watching 4 or 5 of our young players. Debenham is now recognized as one of the more progressive clubs that has a proven way of moving young players up into the higher echelons of the game.

David Hughes congratulated the first football team for winning promotion to the Ridgeon's Premier league which is the top league to get to for amateur players in Suffolk. A remarkable achievement that shows what can be achieved.

Stephen Anderson responded on behalf of the first football team and thanked the centre for hosting the first team and providing facilities that most other teams can only dream of. Stephen stated that many players will come to Debenham FC because of the wonderful facilities that are on hand. The first football team wanted to work more closely with the centre to ensure it continued long into the future.

Mel Aldis made a presentation to Ben Meades who at 13 years old has been picked to represent England in an under 15 basketball tournament in Copenhagen later this summer. Ben attends Debenham High School and practices 'shooting hoops' in the sports hall. Ben was presented with a certificate and new Debenham Sports and Leisure T shirt for his tremendous achievement.

Richard Blackwell read out a letter that had been received that day from Mike Crawshaw, head teacher at Debenham High School that confirmed the increased payments (by 85%) that the school would be paying for the use of the centre. The increase recognizing the increase in pupil numbers that the school has experienced over a period of time.

5. Date of next AGM.

This was set as **Tuesday 18th May 2010 at 8.00pm.**

6. Any Other Business.

No other business was raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Sarah Hughes had provided a wonderful spread for the attendees which was greatly enjoyed by all. Thank you Sarah.