

Huby & Sutton Community Shop Ltd
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 9 October 2018 7.30pm
Memorial Hall, Huby

Present:

CHAIRMAN Denise Howard OBE , TREASURER Sara Ellis, COMPANY SECRETARY Lynn Wagstaff

DIRECTORS: Terry Wolf, John Micklethwaite, Adrienne Micklethwaite, Maurice Jones

MEMBERS 18 other shareholder members

Apologies: Over 24 apologies were received

Denise Howard welcomed all attendees and thanked the Management Committee for all their hard work on the operation of, and improvements in the shop

Minutes of AGM held on 28 September 2017 were circulated, these were approved as correct, Proposed Mr W Anderson, Seconded Mr D McLuckie

There were no matters arising

Chairman's report: This was presented by Denise Howard and is attached to these minutes.

Financial report: Presented by Sara Ellis

Good evening everyone, it's soon come around to this time of year again for our AGM for Barker's of Huby.

I have served another year as Treasurer of the Society and can report that the annual accounts and Financial Summary for the period 1 May 2017 – 30 April 2018, have been prepared by Clive Owen & Co accountants, and have been approved & signed by the MC.

The society reports to the Financial Conduct Authority and will shortly submit the annual return.

We have generated a healthy turnover of £255,510 and made an operating profit of £9689. The turnover is up £12k on the previous year.

At the end of this, our third year in April, we were able to repay another £7k of bonds. We are very grateful to those members who chose to gift us their bonds this year as well, rather than being repaid and we are using this £3000 to make improvements to the shop. We have used some of this to purchase the new veg & fruit stall outside, also a new fridge for the sandwiches & pies for take away food. We sold the old fridge to Aldwark Manor Hotel.

We continue to have a positive cash-flow and hope to be able to repay the final bonds in full next April subject to continuing to achieve an operational profit.

We operate a statutory pension scheme for the eligible staff who work in the Post Office, and this is also administered by Clive Owen & Co on our behalf.

Moving forward the MC is confident that as long as customers & members continue to spend in the shop & use the PO services - and we have plenty of volunteers to continue to run Barkers - the future of the society is sound.

Proposed by Mr D McLuckie, seconded by Mrs D Howell

Election of Committee: There are currently nine members on the Management Committee, who are willing to stand, no other nominations received. Agreed unanimously.

Appointment of Accountants: The members approved the recommendation of the Management Committee that Clive Owen & Co should be appointed for a fourth year.

AOB: In order to reduce the amount of plastic used in the shop, plastic bags will no longer be issued to customers. There is an option to buy a paper carrier bag at the cost price of 24p. Biodegradable bags could be sourced but due to limited storage in the shop they were considered unsuitable. Customers to be asked to bring their own bags. A hotkey is on the till for the carrier bags

Charity nomination: There were several charity nominations, the majority of the votes were to split proceeds between HMVH and the Playing Fields Association

Accounts: Mr M Waite raised a query regarding shareholders' funds

Advertising: It was suggested that an article should be written for the Easingwold Advertiser regarding the discontinuation of plastic bags in the shop, this also to be promoted on the local Facebook sites.

Mr Anderson thanked the committee for all the work that is being done.

It was suggested that it should be advertised that cash withdrawals could be made at the Post Office

Denise Howard congratulated the HMVH committee for all the work that had been done in the hall.

The meeting closed at 8pm and was followed by refreshments

Chairmans Report presented by Denise Howard OBE

Thank you for coming to our third AGM. As a Management Committee we try to make the best decisions we can in the interests of the shop, so I can only assume that there would be a lot more people here if they were unhappy with how things are going!

And before I move on, I'd just like to say 'well done' to the committee running the Hall. The new décor, doors, blinds and varnished flooring looks brilliant, but I know it will have taken blood, sweat and tears to make it happen.

It might seem strange that we are talking about so many months ago, but we have to provide a set of reports to you our members, and the Financial Conduct Authority about

what we have been doing during each specific financial year. This report and accompanying accounts, covers May 2017 to April 2018.

We've held a number of events to keep customers, members and volunteers in touch with what we've been doing.

The Management Committee were delighted to welcome over 100 customers, friends and supporters to the BBQ Breakfast we organized on **Sunday 14 May 2017**

The event was held to mark 2 successful years of community ownership. Everyone enjoyed Hartleys bacon and sausage butties and a chance to chat over a cuppa in the sun. A lovely celebration cake was baked and donated by Sara Ellis and we must thank John Howard who was an amazing BBQ chef again.

The Management Committee at that time made sure everyone had a good time, and a collection for Yorkshire Cancer Research was well supported.

In June last year, we again had a stand at Sutton & Huby Show to raise the profile of the shop, make some money and encourage more volunteers. We don't really make anything from the stand, and it is a lot of work to organize, so the Management Committee agreed that 2017 was our last year, and not to continue with this for the time being.

Also in June, Elaine Corden and Sara Ellis attended the Hambleton District Council Business Awards, representing the shop, which had been nominated in the Best Independent Retailer category.

In July last year, we hosted two separate study visits from Church Fenton Community Shop and Slaley (Northumberland) Community Shop. As well as sharing learning and good practice, we were paid £200 each visit for hosting! Your Management Committee is always seeking ways to improve our shop and post office and meeting other people running community shops and sharing knowledge and experience is helpful.

We made some improvements to the shop during the year using donations from members. We installed a second hand-rail at the steps to the shop, and added the picnic tables, benches and parasols.

For the first time, we organized a photograph competition around Huby & Sutton and used entries to create our own Barkers calendar and Christmas Cards. These were well received last year – we sold out completely – so we've repeated the competition and will have lots of lovely photographs from both villages in the 2019 calendar and Christmas cards. These will be in the shop from early November so do please buy some!

Our volunteers work hard all year round, but especially during Christmas week when we had deliveries from 5.30am to sort. Lots of turkeys, joints and meat all got to the right customers so huge thanks to everyone who helped.

December was a busy month and not just for Christmas. Myself and Terry visited a community owned shop in Clapham on the edge of the lake district. Whilst we were visiting their shop and meeting their Chairman and team, we discovered we were both finalists in the same national awards to be held the following week in London, organized by the Plunkett Foundation.

Two of our volunteers - Hilary Dangerfield and Hilary Kilner – were selected to represent Barkers and attend the ceremony in London. They rang me from the ladies loo that night, very excited to tell me that they'd had a wonderful afternoon and evening and Barkers had won the Community Co-Operative of the Year award. Sorry Clapham!

Sadly, in February this year, the shop was broken into by some thoughtless, young people. The CCTV and witness statements were sufficient for the culprits to be identified and charged. Apart from the odd bottle of wine, nothing was taken, but there was a lot of mess and hassle to sort out. Terry Wolf drew the short straw as she was the one who heard her phone ringing from the security company, and spent several hours during that night with the police and making the shop secure. Not the best way to spend Valentines!

In March we held a very successful wine-tasting party for our volunteers, part-funded by the Plunkett Foundation prize from our December award win. It was a great evening, although trying 8 different wines might have been two wines too many!

Our award successes continued in March when Barkers was voted Best Community Project in the Hambleton Community Awards, and Elaine Corden was voted Community Champion of the Year. Awards like these foster immense pride with all our volunteers and customers but we might wait a year or two before entering them again!

You can see from the summary accounts, that we increased turnover again, and made a profit, from which we were able to repay nearly £7000 of bonds in Year 3. We are very grateful to those members who chose to gift us their bonds this year as well, rather than being repaid and we are using this £3000 to make improvements to the shop. We are planning on repaying the remaining bonds in full next April, which will leave the Society debt free.

I'm delighted we have over 50 volunteers now, who all give their time and service to keep Barkers open. And who all enjoy creating our success together.

Your management committee are also volunteers, and work incredibly hard to keep the shop open 7 days a week. As well as serving in the shop, there is a huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes to keep us successful, legal and financially compliant.

We also feel a huge responsibility over and above opening every day.

Our primary aim as a Management Committee is to secure the long term future and viability of the shop and post office. We know our villages would be much the worse off if we lost either of them. We are financially stable, and intend to build prudent reserves alongside a policy of reinvesting some of the profits into local causes in future years.

Thank you to all our volunteers, but especially to my fellow 8 directors, Terry, Lynn, Sara, Elaine, John, Maurice, Adrienne and Roger – you are all stars.

Thank you.
