

ALFORD CORN EXCHANGE COMMUNITY GROUP
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE CORN EXCHANGE 7.30pm FRIDAY 6th September 2019.

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

Total of 13 members of public, includes members of Alford Corn Exchange Group and Cllr G Allan, Mayor of Alford.

In attendance: Mrs L Croft

J Hynes welcomed all those present.

1. To record attendance and receive apologies.

Apologies were received from N O'Farrell, D and G Allen.

2. Approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 6th July 2018.

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

3. Receive the annual audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018.

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

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

Chairman's report updated members on the busy year of events. He thanked the team of trustees and volunteers for all their hard work and welcomed Neil Calvert as a new trustee. Necessary changes to the running of the Corn Exchange have seen Patricia Davies become the Manager and she has done an amazing job organising events. However she has resigned and therefore the role for a skilled manager will be advertised. Once the role is filled Patricia will become a trustee. The book-keeping has been passed to Linda Croft. The bar has been renovated and is now run by the Corn exchange, several trustees have been trained and licenced to this end. There is a new improved website which now has ticket booking facilities. The exhibition - A history of Alford Brewery, knitwear factory and C S Martins was a successful Corn Exchange project and very well supported by the town. Thanks to Mary Cox and Janet Taylor for their hard work. Also thanks to Bob and Nicky for their help in running events.

5. Receive the Vice Chair's Report.

It has been 5 years now and renovations are continuing. A great improvement is the relocation of the ladies toilets down stairs, the work was carried out by local contractors. Local businesses have used the hall for events and funeral teas continue to receive favourable comments. Tea Dances see people travelling from Lincoln and Woodhall Spa to attend. After it's suspension last year due to the renovations the Christmas Lunch will return. J Taylor thanked all the volunteers who helped.

6. Receive the Renovation Grant Report.

In the absence of N O'Farrell, K Walsh read his report. At the last AGM it was reported that the Trustees were pursuing a grant for major renovation work to the roof. In January the Heritage Lottery rejected the application and this left the Rural leader Grant, the work initially planned has been scaled back. The Glass coupling will be replaced, air conditioning installed and the suspended ceiling removed, this work will start in the spring. The upstairs toilets area will be turned into a storage area, the balcony opened up and a large room which can be used created. Alford Town Council donated £10,000 towards the project which will start in October.

Andy Taylor gave an update on the Lincs Rural Touring programme, 6 events have been booked in addition other events such as the Requiem and Winter Wilson have been arranged by others. All these events have been high quality performances by professionals.

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

John Hynes, election officer explained that as per the constitution 1/3 of trustees were required to stand down.

H Dewick-Eisele, J Hynes and J McHamilton retired.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept their retirement.

It was further proposed, seconded and unanimously voted that they all be re-elected.

7 Any other business appropriate for an AGM.

- a. It was asked that when the ceiling renovation were undertaken whether as well as the chandeliers mentioned a glitter ball for dances could be considered
- b. It was asked why Heritage Lottery had rejected the Corn Exchanges bid. The Heritage Lottery basically ran out of funds. As originally suggested the bid was for the maximum £250,000, then the project costs were halved which resulted in the agency used losing interest and the bid was unable to compete with other projects. All key elements will be dealt with using funds raised.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.