

**MINUTES OF AGM OF BELLINGHAM TOWN HALL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT BELLINGHAM TOWN HALL ON TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2016**

Present: Edwin Wilkinson (Chair), Ken Gaskin (Vice Chair), Joanne Roberts (Treasurer), Monica Tasker (Secretary), Bill Burton, Ruth Everatt, William Wilkinson, Pat Wilkinson, Mrs T Maughan, Eric Barber, Tom Thompson and Terry Bragg.

Apologies: Jamie Rickelton, Sharyn Kelly, Pam Mattinson, Charlotte Allen and Christine Bragg.

There was a pre-AGM meeting held at 6.45 with the committee members being present to agree the end of year accounts. Joanne gave an explanation with regard to the items of the accounts which she had broken down and placed onto a separate sheet to give a fuller explanation, and everyone agreed that this was most helpful. As there were no queries to the accounts, Ken proposed and William seconded that the accounts be accepted, and the accounts were accordingly signed.

At this point, Tom Thompson very kindly gave the Town Hall a donation of £100 from the Leek Club, the committee thanks Tom and the Leek Club for this very generous donation.

The chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and read out the Minutes of the 2015 AGM. The item regarding upgrading the downstairs toilet under 'Any Matters arising from the last AGM', Ken has carried out the replacement of a new wc and cistern, and has received no complaints, the Minutes were noted as being a true record, proposed by Ken, seconded by Bill.

Any Matters arising from the last AGM: There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report: Edwin reported that the Bellingham Town Hall continues to function well, and this is all due to the dedication of the volunteer management committee's efforts, wholly backed up by the community's support.

The Hall being central in the village played its part in that the village received a Gold Award from Northumbria in Bloom. The garden being especially beautiful this year and we thank Pat Wilkinson for growing the seeds, for the planting and the upkeep.

On-going repairs continue to progress, and we have this year had the outside wall next to the Square re-pointed, and the stage ceiling has been repaired.

Keeping up with regulations is a great drain on our resources, and these include the water quality testing, stand-by boiler test and a full re-building valuation are new items over and above multiple existing testing of fire alarms, emergency lights, wiring and portable appliance testing, etc.

All this has given extra workload for our secretary, Monica and treasurer, Joanne, and we thank them for that.

The whole committee puts great effort into organising various functions, and the committee members have the individual expertise in the different areas. Recently the Jumble Sale was a magnificent success largely due to Julie Wilson and the ever-faithful ladies who are not committee members, and who attend the tables.

A large part of our income still comes from The Friends of the Town Hall. The village community is very generous in this respect, and their participation in the up-keep of the Town Hall is very much appreciated. We thank Ken Gaskin for the administration and for organising it all.

The Saturday Night Bingo is a legend, and many thanks to Tom and Graham who just go on and on.

Bellingham Drama performs a production every year, and this is so very welcome and it keeps the Hall well used.

The Library Service continues to use a room in the building, and this is another valuable source of income.

All in all a successful year, and my grateful thanks to all the volunteer committee members, the Town Hall members and the village community.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joanne had reported on the accounts in the pre-AGM meeting, and said that there is a slight increase of money in the bank this year. The Library has not as yet paid the last two invoices and payment should be made by this Friday. Monica has sent a thank you letter to Chris Gillie who audits the accounts free of charge, and Edwin thanks Joanne for her report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Ken thanked Edwin and Pat for the wonderful display of flowers, for all their hard work in the up-keep of the garden. Tom Thompson said that the Leek Club has given a donation of £100 each to Bellingham in Bloom and Bellingham Institute (for the elderly).

Election of committee members will be done in the following committee meeting, and Pat Wilkinson would like to be considered as a committee member.

There being no other business to discuss the Committee membership was dissolved as the term of office had ended. **Meeting Ended 7.15pm**