



## GROOMSPORT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at the Groomsport School

**PRESENT:** List attached

**1 Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed the villagers and invited guests, MLAs, Councillors, Aldermen and representatives of North Down Community Network and the Housing Executive to the AGM and thanked Bronagh Wright for letting us use the school buildings. She asked Bronagh to outline the work being done at the school. Bronagh welcomed everyone to the school and explained that the students were teenagers who were being helped to develop skills which would assist them when they went to look for work.

**2 Apologies:** Sharon and Ian Hogg, David Martin, Moya Gibson, David and Maureen Erwin, Sandra Griffiths, Eric Brown

**3 Minutes of Last AGM (Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**

Agreed and adopted. - Proposed by Tony Montgomery and seconded by Sharon Cummings

**4 Chairman's Report**

Attached

**5 Treasurer's Report**

Brian McBride explained that the accounting period had been changed to meet with Council grant requirements and that the accounts had therefore been drawn up and audited by North Down Community Network for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014 to March 2015. Income since then had been mainly in the form of grants which had to be spent for specific purposes and fundraising was still needed to match the grant funding.

Pearl Brown proposed the adoption of the Treasurer's report. This was seconded by Victor Brown and agreed by those present.

**6 Appointment of Auditors**

Miriam Gibson proposed that NDCN continue as Auditors. The proposal was seconded by Doris Hutchieson.

**7 New Matters notified to the Secretary**

Miriam Gibson stated that none had been received.

**8 Election of Committee Members**

Alderman Chambers took the chair for this part of the meeting. He said that he was sure that villagers had fond memories of the school and were glad to see that it was still a seat of education. He congratulated the Committee on their work and proactive approach.

5 places on the Committee were to be filled as 5 members were elected last year for a 2 year period.

4 Nominations were received:

Sharon Cummings Nominated by Kelly Spence Seconded by Sally Anderson

Roy McWhinney Nominated by Eric Conn Seconded by Laurence Manogue

John Crockard Nominated by Brian McBride Seconded by David Martin

David Martin Nominated by Peter Gibson Seconded by Miriam Gibson

Nominations were invited from those present but none were forthcoming. It was agreed that the above should be deemed elected to the Committee and that a co-option could be made by the Committee

**8 Any Other Business**

**8.1** Doris Hutchieson thanked Victor Crawford for his contribution to the Committee and said that she knew that he would continue with his support. She also reminded villagers of the importance of villagers helping out at activities.

**8.2** Sharon Cummings outlined the forthcoming events in the Village and said that help with these would be welcome.

Christmas Lights Switch On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November

Groomsport's Got Talent will be signing up acts next Saturday and workshops will be held before the event in March.

Ideas would be welcome for Health and Wellbeing activities such as exercise, health events, Ti Chi.

**8.3** Heather Forrest Groomsport House raised questions about the speed limit on the Donaghadee Road and the bypass which was to have been reduced. Councillor Martin said that Transport NI was to have erected signs and that he would follow up with them. Alderman Chambers said that Transport NI had financial restrictions and that work requested at Cove Hollow had not been completed either.

**8.4** Perry Moore asked about the footpath on the old road (B511) As the road is so narrow it is impossible for 2 large vehicles such as buses to pass without one mounting the pavement. Alderman Chambers pointed out that vehicles were often drifting onto the wrong side of the road. It was agreed that the road was very narrow but that it was unlikely that it would be widened as this would involve knocking down the old estate walls

**8.5** Gordon Dunne MLA raised the issue of flags continuing to be flown in the village. Alderman Chambers said that some progress had been made in taking them down as agreed and he hoped that elected representative would assist with this. He said that they should be down by the end of the week.

Perry Moore asked whether the bonfire grant could be linked to this but it was pointed

out that it is not always the same people involved in both.

- 8.6 Parking on the double yellow lines in Main Street and at the bottom of the Hill was raised and it was agreed that more enforcement was needed.
- 8.7 Perry Moore raised a problem with the road at the path to the harbour which needs a ramp so that it is made wheelchair accessible. Alderman Chambers agreed to follow up on this.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended.

Following the meeting Roy McWhinney outlined the work that had been done for the Ulster in Bloom Competition and thanked all those who had helped to make the village look so attractive for the judges. This had resulted in Groomsport being voted joint second in the large village category which was won by Hillsborough. Roy then invited Peter Gibson (Chair of Groomsport gardening club) and Alan Crawford (Groomsport Nurseries) who had donated the prizes for the village best kept gardens competition to present the prizes.

#### **Note of Committee meeting after the AGM**

The following were elected

##### **Chair**

Doris Hutchieson nominated by Miriam Gibson and seconded by Mandy Ritchie

##### **Vice Chair**

John Crockard nominated by Doris Hutchieson and seconded by Miriam Gibson

##### **Secretary**

Miriam Gibson has served 3 years as secretary and stood down

No other member of the Committee was willing to take on the role

Mandy Ritchie proposed that Miriam should remain as secretary and this was seconded by John Crockard.

##### **Treasurer**

Brian McBride nominated by Doris Hutchieson and seconded by Sharon Cummings