



Coxhoe Village Hall Public Meeting -A call for new Volunteers

8pm Wednesday 9th January 2019

The meeting had been called as a call for action for new volunteers to come forward to support the Village Hall going forward, as the current Committee have declared they are standing down at the next Annual General Meeting

17 potential volunteers attended plus 2 County Councillors who arrived after the Meeting had started

The current Committee of Paul Dodsworth (Chair), Nicola Dodsworth (Secretaary) and Gary Robinson (Treasurer); plus, Karen Williams (Part time Administration Assistant) were present representing Coxhoe Village Hall

The Chair opened the Meeting, thanking everyone in attendance for showing an interest in the Village Hall. He also thanked those who had shown an interest but were unable to attend the meeting. They will be updated on discussions afterwards

He went on to say that there is still a lot to do at the Village Hall, such as redecorating and bringing it up to date. Unfortunately, the current Committee, which currently only stands at only four members, are all standing down at the next AGM due to personal reason; and so the Village Hall will need a whole new Committee. However, the Chair implored that they intend to make the transition as smooth as possible and don't intend to just walk away, but support the new Committee where and when they can until they are established and comfortable

He continued that new funding opportunities need to be identified and applications submitted to help sustain the upkeep and future of the Village Hall. There is to be more paid support to help with this.

The level of support that potential volunteers can offer needs to be identified. Who wants to volunteer as a Friend of Coxhoe Village Hall i.e. helping with day to day running such as supporting events, helping with repairs and redecoration etc, or who can be a Committee Member, which is more about playing a part in planning the for future of the Village Hall and creating an ongoing Action Plan of what, where, when, who and why; and how it needs to achieve sustainability. The Chair explained the level of commitment needed as a Committee member, explaining that it can be as much time as you can, but the Committee must be doers – i.e. taking responsibility, dealing with actions and feeding back.

The Chair informed attendees that the Village Hall accounts for 2018 are all about to be submitted for audit and then be sent off to the Charities Commission – which will all be done before they step down

The Chair then opened the meeting up to questions from attendees

- 1 At the last AGM it was mentioned that a lift was to be installed – is there any update?

The Chair explained that the funding application wasn't considered at the funder's November meeting as expected, but will be going to the January meeting; and a decision is expected at the end of the month

- 2 Can the difference between 'Friend Of' and 'Committee Member' be explained ?

The Chair explained that the Committee are expected to actively partake in decision making, whereas Friends Of offer help wherever they can – be it administrative support, funding applications, fundraising, helping at events and weekly sessions offered by the Village Hall, decorating, repairing etc., - but not making decisions. Committee members would be expected to attend one formal meeting per month; or if there was a specific project ongoing, then a sub Committee maybe formed to deal exclusively with that and then report back to the main Committee for example a sub Committee to deal exclusively with the Lift Application

One attendee offered to help raise more funds for the Village Hall

- 3 What is a perfect size for a Committee?

It depends on the time, skills and knowledge each member has, but usually 6 – 10

- 4 Would there be training available for new Committee members?

Yes definitely, and this will be crucial to the success of the new Committee going forward in order that they understand legal requirements etc. Training will be organised once the new Committee is in place and a skills audit carried out, so that they work as a group and a cohesive unit

There were no more questions. The Chair concluded the meeting by asking that all attendees give some indication of their level of support. From these finding, the current Committee will engage with the support agencies who help Charities in transition (e.g. DCA), and call another Village Hall - hopefully within the next couple of month - as it is hoped that the AGM will be end of March / April 2019. The Chair thanked everyone for their support and the meeting closed at 8.45pm