



Langford Village
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AGM: 17 October 2023
Held at Langford Village Community Centre

Agenda Item & Actions	By Whom
<p>Apologies: Councillor Dan Sames, Councillor Chris Pruden, Sandra Davies (LVCA Bookings Administrator), Lorna Nicholl (former LVCA Accounts auditor),</p>	
<p>Approval of Minutes of AGM held 3 October 2022: Minutes had already been circulated to those who had asked for copies and have been on LVCA website. Attendees formally approved the Minutes.</p>	
<p>Annual Report - Treasurer: Our financial position for year ending 31.03.23 is very healthy. In summary, an overall surplus of £3,879 was recorded. This was made up of a surplus on Regular Hall Running Costs of £10,917, offset by a deficit of £(7,038) on one-off Hall Improvements.</p> <p>We spent a total of £9,238 on Hall Improvements, including external signage and electrically operated kitchen fire screen. This was offset by £2,200 of grants received, reducing the net cost (deficit) to £(7,038) which was funded from LVCA resources.</p> <p>Our Net Assets increased to £33,215 at year end. This means we are able to budget for Hall Improvements worth £10,000 in 2023-24, and still have a General Reserve which equates to 12 months Normal Operating Expenditure.</p> <p>Detailed accounts have been prepared by the Treasurer, and independently examined by Lis Penhearow, and will be posted on the LVCA website alongside these minutes.</p>	
<p>Annual Report – Chairman: LVCA has been an active voice for the community so it is important we know your views.</p> <p>Also responsible for efficient running of the Hall (Community Centre).</p> <p>The Hall is regularly booked for around 42 hours per week and in much demand for weekend parties. LVCA invested in an online booking system some time ago which give visibility to free slots in the Hall during half terms and school holidays when regular users may not require their bookings and has resulted in the slots being booked for ad hoc events. LVCA also runs its own courses, mainly for the more mature, which have been very successful and include chair yoga, Thursday Circle (social group) and an art class. A couple of wine tastings have also been held.</p>	

<p>Improvements during the year include a PA system that integrates with the hearing loop, and much improved Access and Gents toilets. A VAS (vehicle speed awareness sign) has also been installed - thanks to Councillor Calum Miller in helping with the grant for this, the OCC Highways team and Laurence Gray for getting this up and running.</p> <p>Thanks to Chris A'Court for his continued help with social media and website.</p> <p>Thanks to our many grant providers including Mid Counties Co-Op, Doris Field Foundation, National Lottery, Cherwell District Council, Bicester Town Council and Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>In terms of representing the community of Langford, LVCA activities have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a voice against the inappropriate siting of a 5G mast • Campaigning to keep an appropriate rail crossing at London Road for all • Bus service for Langford • Improvements to paths around Jubilee Lake • Supporting the super surgery • Identifying tree issues • Improvements and the renaming of Langford Park • Vehicle Speed Awareness sign <p>We need more people to join us to enable us to increase our work for Langford residents. Also, someone to take over from Chris to run our social media and website, plus someone to ensure we have adequate cleaning supplies and liaise with our cleaner, and to help as a relief with opening/closing of hall for party bookings.</p> <p>During the year ahead, we will be seeking grants for loft insulation, improvements to ladies' toilets and a cover for the bike stand.</p>															
<p>Election of Committee:</p> <p>Chairman outlined those standing for election to the LVCA Committee:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Carole Hetherington</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Noel Hetherington</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Elaine Whittaker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bookings Administrator</td> <td>Sandra Davies</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grants/Funding</td> <td>Amit Sen (co-opted during the year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Projects</td> <td>Laurence Gray (co-opted during the year)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Special Projects</td> <td>Jim Finlay co-opted during the year)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Proposed by Ellie Thompson Seconded by Katie Andrews Approved by attendees</p>	Chairman	Carole Hetherington	Treasurer	Noel Hetherington	Secretary	Elaine Whittaker	Bookings Administrator	Sandra Davies	Grants/Funding	Amit Sen (co-opted during the year)	Special Projects	Laurence Gray (co-opted during the year)	Special Projects	Jim Finlay co-opted during the year)	
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<p>Presentation: Damien Maguire Councillor Bicester Town Council</p> <p>Langford Park Nature Trail – this is on the route through the park from London Road entrance. Sign is up – located a few metres on from stone circle with the sundial. Signage around the park to identify nature of interest plus beautifully carved benches.</p> <p>Play areas – some refurbished with others on the list for the year ahead.</p> <p>Outdoor gym – aim to install this spring 2024.</p> <p>Jubilee Lake paths – once Thames Water has got the paths into a decent condition, the aim is for BTC to lease the area from Thames Water and to continue to maintain.</p>															

<p>Question 1: Can the condition of the paths from Peregrine Way through to park, on to Mallards Way and into town by railway crossing be improved – they are hazardous for those using mobility aids, all pedestrians and cyclists. Answer: Damien to take back to BTC</p> <p>Question 2: Bollards/fencing on Mallards Way near the chicanes in poor condition – can they be repaired? Answer: Damien to take back to BTC</p> <p>Question 3: Why is Garth Park sometimes locked early – before dusk? Answer: Staff shortages mean gates are sometimes locked early</p> <p>Question 4: Mallards Way was designed to be a 20 mph with surrounding roads at 15 mph. Why is this not the case? Answer: BTC would need to request – need to show wish for this from residents</p>	
<p>Presentation: Councillor Calum Miller, Oxfordshire County Council</p> <p>London Road Crossing: Following the six options put forward by EWR to consider EWR in July 2023 held a public information session in Bicester to announce only two options were now being considered one a crossing at Gavray Drive and one to the west of the station Train services from Oxford to Milton Keynes due to commence in 2025, which means no solution will likely be in place by then, as there is not a preferred option out for consultation. A totally unacceptable situation. Have suggested an arcing bridge starting from Talisman Road roundabout. OCC are involved as a stakeholder and are in conversation with the various landowners who would be involved. Bridge would be quite steep so probably only suitable for motorists therefore a proposal for a shallow underpass for non-vehicle users is also being looked at. There would be funding challenges to be overcome. Important that all Bicester residents are engaged as any potential road closure would impact traffic around the town as a whole.</p> <p>Question 1: Why no final solution in place for crossing before the project commenced? If route is due to be operational in 2025, driver training would start 2024. Answer: Calum agreed there did seem to be a lack of local knowledge within the project team, however a senior engineer attended who is based in Oxford so does know the area. Following a lot of representation at the public meeting EWR have now seriously agreed to look at a curved bridge over the car parks, which has been suggested several times previously however not listened to until now. Need to keep pressure up over the next months and hope the funding can be facilitated.</p> <p>Question 2: Will trains on the new route stop at Bicester Village? Answer: Yes</p> <p>Comment: Clear that EWR had not considered mobility scooters as their proposed solution would be completely unsuitable</p> <p>Question 3: Could a 7.5 tonne weight limit be introduced on London Road – would mean bridge less of an engineering challenge.</p>	

<p>Answer: There would be support for this</p> <p>Question 4: The walkway on Kingsmere side of the road from Bicester Village to new Retail Park does not exist beyond the pedestrian crossing meaning people have to walk over a very muddy area once the rain sets in creating access difficulties.</p> <p>Answer: Calum will follow up</p> <p>Bus Service: Current service only runs on Fridays. A new service has been agreed supported by investment from all three tiers of local authority. Commencing November 2023 this will run Monday-Saturday from Oxford via Beckley and Horton cum Studley through Langford to Bicester town. Timings would be 11.05 and 14.05 from Langford to Bicester and 11.25 and 14.25 return. Friday service will also continue for time being. There may also be a second community route that would run via Langford.</p> <p>Comment: Friday bus drivers provide a friendly and welcoming service much appreciated by bus users</p>	
<p>Presentation: Chris A'Court - representing Alchester Medical Group Chris is a freelance contractor engaged by Alchester Medical Group. As residents will be aware, the proposed new super surgery will not go ahead. Whilst support was not universal, it would have provided much needed additional capacity to GP and allied services for the growing town of Bicester. Whilst the former CCG had agreed funding, the new Integrated Care Board were not able to support. Whilst there is some scope to potentially expand at Langford, Victoria House, Montgomery-House and Bicester Health Centre, this joint capacity increase will be nowhere near if the super surgery had gone ahead. Chris thanked LVCA and the Alchester Medical Group PPG for their support.</p> <p>Question 1: What has happened to the funding for Community Hospital expansion? Answer: Community Hospital is not operated by GPs so no comment possible</p> <p>Question 2: Could local service be set up at Graven Hill for people living there? Answer: Government policy is leaning towards larger surgeries and there is a real challenge in finding GP partners willing to take on new surgeries (GP surgeries operate as independent businesses with a contract to provide certain services on behalf of the NHS)</p> <p>Comment: Parking is very limited at Victoria House</p>	
<p>Presentation: Police Report This report was presented by LVCA Committee member and Langford resident Laurence Gray. Langford is a low crime area and crime locally has gone down. Main issues are anti-social behaviour, drugs and burglary. Within Bicester as a whole there have been 300 crimes per month. Police focus is on drug misuse/supply (a problem in Kings End and Kingsmere) and anti-social behaviour in Pioneer Square. Areas of concern reported by residents include</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - e-scooters which are illegal unless part of an official trial project. The police strategy is education, warning, seizing and possible prosecution (if offender has a driving licence) - Speeding <p>Laurence also presented initial information gathered via VAS: LVCA has installed a VAS unit - a motion sensor that detects vehicle numbers and speed which is displayed on screen. This acts both as prompt to consider speed and data can be shared with police to inform them of potential need for action. Data does show that around 15% of cars speed. Whilst the majority are between 30/40mph there are occasional cars driving at 50mph (limit is 30mph)</p> <p>LVCA will not be operating a Speed Watch scheme though local residents may wish to pursue this, a group of volunteers would be required.</p> <p>Comment: Cars do seem to slow down coming into the estate when they see the sign.</p> <p>Question 1: Could another VAS be located near the school? Answer: LVCA will follow up</p> <p>Question 2: Does the VAS use cameras Answer: No</p> <p>Question 3: How much did scheme cost? Answer: Around £5000 (covered by grant funding)</p>	
<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>Question 1: Can graffiti on sports pavilion be removed? Answer: Damien from BTC will follow up on this</p> <p>Comment: Do take opportunity to comment on Cherwell District Local Plan – consultation runs till 3 November and is available online</p> <p>Comment: Vote of thanks proposed by Mike Oke to Carole and committee by the attendees</p>	
<p>Meeting Closed at 9.45</p>	



Langford Village
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

LVCA Treasurer's Report for year ending 31st March 2023

The attached accounts were prepared by the LVCA Treasurer, Noel Hetherington, and we are grateful to Lis Penhearow, who has independently examined and verified them.

In the last year our Normal Operating income and expenditure grew significantly compared to the previous year, giving us an operating surplus of £10,917, compared to a surplus of £5,710 in 2021-22. This was partly because the previous year had only a gradual return of our regular weekday classes and weekend party bookings post-pandemic. Another positive factor was the introduction of our own LVCA managed classes, initially funded by a CDC grant, and which have since gone on to be self funding.

During the year we spent £9,238 on improvements to the Hall, including the new Langford Village Community Centre sign on the outside wall, the installation of a Hearing Loop and speaker system and projector screen in the hall, and painting of the fence around the garden. We were able to obtain grants of £2,200 towards hall improvements, so most of this was funded by our own resources, resulting in a deficit of £(7,038) for the year on Hall Improvements and Projects.

However, this still left an overall surplus of £3,879, an improvement of £12,522 over the prior year. Consequently, our Net Assets (bank balance less liabilities) increased from £29,336 to £33,215, which is the value of our reserves at 31st March 2023.

Note - The liability figure of £7,946 includes outstanding payments for goods and services, deposits owed back to hall bookers, and pre-payments received for bookings in the following year.

Our policy is to hold reserves up to the value of 1 year's normal operating expense, which for the 2022-23 financial year was approximately £21,000. At 31st March 2023 we therefore had approximately £12,000 excess cash in reserves. The committee is therefore confident that we can afford to release a further £10,000 during the year 2023-24, to spend on further improvements to the hall, such as the Toilet Refurbishment.

Noel Hetherington
Treasurer LVCA
17th Oct 2023

Langford Village Community Association 2022-23 Accounts

Hall Normal Operating Summary	2022-23	2021-22
<i>Regular Users Hire Fees</i>	£18,116	£16,223
<i>Casual Users Hire Fees</i>	£7,812	£3,223
<i>Grants - Funded Courses</i>	£3,600	-
<i>LVCA Classes - Income</i>	£2,002	-
<i>Lottery & Bank Interest</i>	£320	£479
Normal Operating - Income	£31,850	£19,925
<i>Hall Admin</i>	£697	£636
<i>Hall Maintenance</i>	£1,387	£1,574
<i>Utilities</i>	£3,929	£1,981
<i>Hall Cleaning</i>	£9,952	£8,439
<i>Misc</i>	£521	£1,078
<i>Insurance and Licences</i>	£1,301	£506
<i>LVCA Classes - Expense</i>	£3,146	-
Normal Operating - Expenditure	£20,933	£14,214
Normal Operating - Surplus / (Deficit)	£10,917	£5,710
Hall Improvements & Projects	2022-23	2021-22
<i>Prior Year Grants - Primarily Covid Support (via CDC)</i>	-	£14,234
<i>Grant - Cherwell District Council - Hearing Loop</i>	£1,200	-
<i>Grant - Doris Field Trust - Toilet Refurb</i>	£1,000	-
Improvement & Projects - Income	£2,200	£14,234
<i>Internal Improvements</i>	£9,242	£1,691
<i>External Improvements</i>	£(4)	£26,897
Improvement & Projects - Expenditure	£9,238	£28,588
Improvements & Projects - Surplus / (Deficit)	£(7,038)	£(14,354)
Overall Summary	2022-23	2021-22
Income	£34,050	£34,159
Expenditure	£30,171	£42,802
Overall Surplus / (Deficit)	£3,879	£(8,643)

Langford Village Community Association
2022-23 Balance Sheet / Source & Application of Funds

Assets & Liabilities	31st Mar 22	31st Mar 23
Assets		
Cash in Bank	£ 37,974	£ 41,042
Petty Cash	£ -	£ 120
Total Assets	£37,974	£41,161
Liabilities		
Creditors	£ 4,574	£ 4,044
Prepayments	£ 2,564	£ 2,503
Security Deposits	£ 1,500	£ 1,400
Total Liabilities	£ 8,638	£ 7,946
Net Assets	£ 29,336	£ 33,215

Equity	31st Mar 22	Income	Expense	Transfers	31st Mar 23
General Reserve	£19,336	£28,250	£(20,933)	£(5,072)	£21,580
Hall Improvement Reserve	£10,000		£(3,888)	£3,888	£10,000
Hearing Loop Fund	-	£1,200	£(2,384)	£1,184	£0
Social Isolation Fund	-	£3,600	£(2,966)		£634
Toilet Refurbishment Fund		£1,000	-		£1,000
Total Equity	£ 29,336	£ 34,050	£(30,171)	£ -	£ 33,215