

# **Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Friends of Hessett Church, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014, Hessett & Beyton Village Hall**

**Present:** Committee: Mark Armstrong, Klair Baully, Richard Brown, Jill Carter, Chris Collins, Hazel Halliwell, Jenny Hawes, Brenda Picking, Michael Poulter and Andrew Robinson. Members: Viv Baully, Sue Last, Peter Newlands, Rita Newlands, Don Picking, Carole Poulter, Janet Rapley, Jon Rapley, Anne Ward, Les Ward, Nic Wright, Sara Wright

**1. Apologies:** Natalie and Roger Bennett, Regina Chandraraj, Sheila Cocksedge, Janice and Martin Gibson, Margaret Hooper, Debbie Marshall, Veronica Laycock, John and Sheila Selley, Clive Wilson

**2. Minutes** of meeting held on 21st October 2013 - read and approved.  
Proposed: Chris Collins, seconded Andrew Robinson

**3. Matters arising.** None

## **4. Chairman's report**

Michael Poulter welcomed members and said that following the departure of Brian and Alison Jones from the village he had agreed to stand as Chairman and Jill Carter as Secretary. The committee soon learned of all the work done by the Jones's behind the scenes and it was decided to have a 'quiet year' for activities as part of the learning curve.

Michael said work had been carried out to repair an outside tap, clear rubbish from behind the organ and investigate improving the gravel path up to the church. Members were invited to the Christmas concert on 28<sup>th</sup> November, featuring the Edmund Octet, a local barber shop style choir, tickets £5, including refreshments.

The FOHC is funding the refurbishment of the WWI memorial cross in the churchyard although local people have been invited to make donations in memory of a family member. It is hoped the cross will be re-dedicated at a service in November 2015, at the same time as publishing a booklet with details of the people remembered on the cross.

Michael thanked the committee for their hard work, especially Andrew Robinson for his support.

Andrew Robinson, Vice Chairman, gave an overview of activities at the church from his perspective as churchwarden. Although there had been bad weather in recent week, the church roof had not leaked. The committee provided tea for visitors from the Ipswich Clock Society who had donated £80. The tap repair would be finished shortly, the doors had been oiled, the windows were being propped open in a different way and the curtain keeping out the draughts had been cleaned. Jon and Janet Rapley were thanked. The gate to the churchyard had almost fallen apart and Mark Armstrong is making a new one.

## **5. Treasurer's report**

Chris Collins said total receipts for the year ended 31.8.14 before costs were £4,639, compared to £7,744 the previous year. This is because of just one event, the Christmas concert which raised £631 less £233 given to the musicians, the Salvation Army Band. Subscriptions were also down, mainly due to one member changing from a regular monthly contribution to an annual. The garage sale at Alison and Brian Jones resulted in a donation of £310. Gift Aid covering two years was claimed totalling £965. The total cash held at the end of the year was £21,439, £4228 more than the previous year. £19,351 is held on deposit with the balance in the current account and a little petty cash. The accounts have not been inspected by an auditor as the turnover is less than £10,000, the Charity Commission limit for independent scrutiny.

## **6. Election of officers and committee**

Andrew Robinson was re-elected Vice Chairman and committee members up for new terms were also re-elected: Michael Poulter, Klair Bauly and Jill Carter.

## **7. Change of Constitution**

A change to the constitution was agreed, proposed by Chris Collins and seconded by Andrew Robinson. The change states that the year for subscription payments is a calendar year, January to December.

## **8. Forthcoming events**

The committee have several ideas for future events including an open gardens, sale trail (with Beyton?), vintage car rally and Christmas concert. Members were asked for ideas and Les Ward suggested a return of the Dixie Jazz Bandits who had performed several years ago.

## **9. Any Other Business**

Andrew proposed a vote of thanks to Michael for taking on the chairmanship which received unanimous support.

Peter Newlands asked about the fabric of the church and whether there was a plan of work. Algae on the rafters was a problem, as was the state of the upper floor of the vestry where there are rotten timbers. The architect's quinquennial inspection is overdue. Two of the bells are cracked but can be rung, however the frame is damaged which limits the ringing. The organ has improved since several bags of rubbish have been removed from around it. Village paragoner Bill Sargeant is interested in quoting for future work.