

ULEY COMMUNITY STORES

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD IN ULEY VILLAGE HALL AT 10.30am ON SATURDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2024

PRESENT: Committee: Paul Lawrence (Chairman), David Thomas (Treasurer), Pami Davis, Julia Wathen, Tess Jackson, Liz Purnell and Joanna Hordern Curzon (Secretary).

APOLOGIES: Angela Haddrell, Cat Sargent

There were 16 Members' Apologies with proxies to vote, for a total of 39 Members (present and proxies). See attached list.

The meeting began with an informal chat with coffee, tea and biscuits kindly provided by the Uley Society.

It was established that there was a Quorum of shareholders with 23 attendees and with proxies to vote.

The Minutes from the 2023 AGM had been approved and were signed.

Paul Lawrence welcomed and thanked everyone for attending, and presented the financial condition and performance of the shop for the year ended June 2024. He referenced the difficult market and geopolitical conditions which were impacting on the shop, and made a detailed presentation on the shop and PO performance and financial condition. The presentation is attached to these Minutes and, together with the Financials, will be up on the website soon. In addition to other costs, such as Rent and Utilities, Bank Charges have increased to £3,500 pa partly due to the use of cards instead of cash, although the shop is encouraging people to use cash if possible.

The combination of the Shop and the PO continues to be a considerable Community Asset, and Paul Lawrence stressed most particularly that if the shop were to be lost to the village it would lose more than just a place to buy groceries and send parcels, but a community hub of enormous value.

Our lease runs until December 2027 and our financial position is healthy, with a cash balance of £140,000. Over the past 12 years we have given c.£40,000 to local organisations in our Community Spirit initiative, but it is unlikely we will be able to continue at least at this level with the cost of Utilities and Bank Charges constantly increasing and the number of customers, and their spending, having levelled out. If every loyal customer could spend at £10 per week, and encourage other people to use the shop as well, this would help enormously and support Community Spirit too.

We are now officially a "Dementia Friendly" shop, with some volunteers trained in how to help and we are encouraging people with dementia to visit the shop at lunchtime when it is

quieter. We have also helped over 12 Duke of Edinburgh award students with the Work Experience element of their requirements. Paul Lawrence thanked Pami Davis, Maggie Turnbull and Jane Stevenson for their hard work in organising the rota of the volunteers, and stressed the need for more people to come forward to volunteer in the shop or in other roles, eg serving on the Committee or to offer to supervise the maintenance needs of the shop – someone for this role is needed at the moment.

Two Resolutions were passed unanimously:

- 1 - not to appoint accountants to audit the accounts, and
- 2 - to appoint Ross Thurlow to the Committee.

Paul Lawrence announced that he was, as had been expected, standing down as Chairman and introduced his replacement, Richard Littlehales, who talked briefly to the meeting to introduce himself and his background. Paul Lawrence was presented with a bottle of Woodchester Valley Wines Champagne to thank him for his hard work on behalf of the shop over the past seven years.

AOB:

Maggie Turnbull pointed out that we were losing lunch customers to the Vestry Café, but there wasn't anything we could do about this.

Pami Davis was thanked for keeping people informed, through the Village News, of initiatives, opening hours, etc.

It was pointed out that the shop is a good centre for finding out what is going on in the surrounding area.

A member raised concerns over the financial position of the shop, but was reassured by Paul Lawrence that his worries were groundless.

Paul Lawrence thanked Andy Davis for sorting out the Power Point element of the presentation and the meeting ended at 11.00.