

**WELLOW RECREATION (WR) AGM**  
**12TH SEPTEMBER 2024 7.30 PM**  
**TENNIS PAVILION**

**Welcome and Introduction:**

Trustees in attendance APG/SH/LH/AF. Mike Clarkson also present in his capacity as interim treasurer. Maggie Fick unavailable to attend. She is not a trustee but has kindly agreed to continue to support the committee and undertake a co-ordinator role with the Community Chest. The Community Chest has had a bit of a rocky road over the past year or so but it still plays a vital role in the organising of village based community events, primarily as a fundraiser. The AGM is a public meeting and hence was also attended by members of the community. APG has a statutory obligation to produce an annual report for the Charities Commission which he will do by 31st October.

**Formalities:      APG**

Apologies – GP and TH

Confirmation of Quorum – we have the quorum required in accordance with the constitution. The AGM should be held within 15 months or less from the date of the last AGM. We are slightly out at approx 17 months largely due to the availability of trustees, the summer holiday period not helping.

Approval of 2023 AGM minutes – Approved.

**Chairman's Report:**

Achievements and acknowledgements  
Issues and Challenges  
Survey Results  
Key Objectives 2024/2025

Turbulence and loss of momentum in the first part of the year. Sue Chivers stepped down from her trustee role in WR and in doing so we lost someone of experience. She was a wise head and our Parish Council representative. As part of our constitution, we are required to have a representative on WR from the parish council. We also lost Liv Elliot, which was extremely sad. She had a positive attitude, great energy and we would welcome her back with open arms. We also lost Tara Gold, who took on the very important role of treasurer. She had a heavy load whilst she was here, particularly with regard to her commitments with the Wellow Way 10k. This left a large hole to fill. Mike Clarkson stepped in as an interim treasurer, for which we were very grateful. Mike wears many hats and always shows enthusiasm in helping when he can. But we must find a successor as soon as possible. In 2023, when APG set his mission and objectives, one of those was to regain lost ground with the post-pandemic loss of traction. The Wellow Way 10k was a huge success for the community. The outdoor theatre was also wonderful, but required a huge effort, and we were exposed to a high level of risk. The reality is we are still well behind where we should be, and we have suffered some unbudgeted costs. The storage container was damaged by youths

using it to jump on and off the roof. The expense of this was shared jointly with WVT but it cost £1,400 to be replaced. We now have a sturdy container. Andy from WVT said that we could keep the proceeds of the old one if we were able to sell it, which enabled us to bring in £200. Work on the pavilion has also been undertaken as a result of an electrical survey, which showed some faults which have now been rectified. We also installed the domestic hot water tap. However, the cost of that was offset with the sale of the coffee machine, which resulted in a net cost to us of £227.50. There is currently no direct income from football or from cricket, which does expose us a little.

## **Wellow Way 10K: LH**

A thoroughly enjoyable and well organised day. We ultimately had great weather and showcased Wellow at it's best. There was a fabulous turnout. We were hoping for 400 overall and ended up with 150 participants for the 10k, 13 for the 10k walk, 22 for the 5k walk and 118 for the colour run. This event secured a profit of £2,056 for the community chest. The PTA also made around £1,002 on cake sales and tea and coffee. We can certainly cut costs next year quite significantly. The success of this event was down to an amazing team who worked very hard. Mercedes sponsored the day to the tune of £500 and we are hoping we can secure that again next year. It is imperative that we retain a well-priced village feel for this event. The date has been changed to protect us from adverse weather in so far as is possible. The council was somewhat heavy handed and inconsistent in the way in which they approached rules and regulations which incurred significant costs, largely relating to traffic control. Ultimately, we were lucky to get this event over the line at all but what has become apparent is that early engagement with the council and keeping them close is vital. There was some feedback about the lack of a vegetarian option for the food which is noted. Some work to be done on publicity because most people found out about the event through word of mouth. Wellow Way 10K will take place on 6th April 2025 which is a month later. Consideration has been given to whether or not this would clash with other organised runs but we have concluded that we are not competing with those events. We really need to expand the team and to have a situation whereby a segmented approach is taken to the different roles. Liv Elliot is trying to sort out an off-road route and ideas are being collated to make money from other avenues such as merchandise. APG saying if we run this for a few years it may then become a mainstay in everyone's diaries, but he is mindful of the enormous work involved. Hopefully BANES are becoming a bit more reasonable. Is this annual or biannual? If every year, there is more momentum hence better for marketing. LH thinks this comes down to expanding the team as above. Somer Valley Butchers have said ref the BBQ that they could take it or leave it. Query whether or not the bus may like to take this on akin to the village shop at the Wellow Show as a fund raiser.

The Miracle Theatre worked well. In fact, largely considered to be one of the best ever. A few bumps in the road and the date had to be changed. Also issues with Bath Box office but all in all it was a success. Bea Dowty managed to transfer her Tesco grant which made a huge difference. Bea explained that an application for a Bags for Life grant was made many years ago. Unbeknown to Bea that application remained live and somewhat out of the blue Bea discovered she was able to transfer the funds allocated of £500 to the theatre event. Bea had previously subsidised the performance so really those monies should have gone to her but she very generously transferred £500 to the theatre negating a loss. 103 tickets were sold which was a decent turnout.

Part of the deal is that we look after the cast members and APG was rather rigorous on costs this year. Miracle Theatre are charging less than they did pre-pandemic, but they used to get in the region of 200 attendees. Bath Box office have said that they are seeing this across the board. We would have made a £350 loss if it was not for Bea's input. APG wonders whether this is better suited to a biannual event. Lucy Pearman and APG have discussed whether or not an all-day music event on the field would be viable as an alternative to the pop-up film event. That endeavour was dropped as the theatre event took main stage.

Other successes were the ECB All Stars cricket. The maximum number of participants was set at 15 children, but we ended up with 23. It is looking positive for a 2025 roll out. There is also a separate course for 8 to 11 year olds. APG has spoken to Shoscombe and they are also interested in getting involved. WR subsidised a proportion of the coaching fees, query whether or not we should use some of Emma Rose's donation money towards this. It is a demonstrable good cause for the community. SH wondering if we should explore cricket summer clubs. Mike Clarkson and APG wondering how we set regular cricket back in motion at WR. Some use from Bath Uni and the Bell at Walcot Street. The Bear Flat Cricket Club and Dunkerton have all been considered but no one has stepped up as a 'champion'. Bear Flat used the nets one evening but they are going to construct their own. Repair costs estimated in the region of £2,500 plus VAT which we cannot justify at the moment based on usage. Play has recently been stopped by a group of people using it as someone got hit by a ball due to damage to the surface. Surface repairs would be significant. APG is meeting with Keith to see what the options may be. It is not our job to be the coaches as above - we need 'champions' but we can help with providing funds. Particularly with football and cricket and insofar as football is concerned the pitch is now good enough. SH mentioning Chilcompton football and it might be worth taking a closer look at their set up. The adult boot camps are popular.

This year the show team took over the financial management of the show and this worked well. WR were paid a fee of £500 for this service which will appear as income and not show reserve. It was specifically negotiated to allow the show team to outsource the financial burden of the show, while helping WR minimise annual losses incurred as a result of reduced income from organised playing field activity. The show should consider applying some of its residual surplus (net of fee) to build a reserve under WR. There is definitely scope to negotiate a sliding scale fee for future years, which better reflects variation in show surplus but WR still will need to offset unbudgeted pavilion costs. Discussion reference the hire of the village hall for the show and the split between WR and the PTA. WR paid £100 and is due to receive 20% of the PTA proceeds from the sale of teas/cakes/coffees/teas equating to £83. Should the PTA pay towards the hire of the hall? They should have been asked this in advance if that's the plan. Also, if they were to pay for the hall hire potentially unreasonable to ask for a % contribution in addition. Agreed that this year they will pay 20% of the proceeds and that they will not be asked to pay towards the hire of the hall. This becomes complicated in any event because the hall functions in many capacities over the Friday and the Saturday of the show.

The survey results reveal that there is strong interest shown in village table tennis. Two options being (1) that it could take place in the pavilion but the general consensus being that would be too cramped and we would need to move furniture etc (2) set up a club in the village hall. We have been donated a table tennis table and some equipment and it has been confirmed that Tuesdays or Wednesdays might be possible. At the last count there were nine or ten people interested with a view to kicking off in October. Ian Pidgen is keen to help. This may be something for which Emma Rose's donation money could be used, depending on how things unfold. Debbie Clarkson suggesting that there could be some overlap with England tennis particularly given the focus on it being a community activity and involvement of younger people under the tennis umbrella. Also, an angle in so far as the hall being an underutilised asset. Could there be some taster sessions?

There is an ongoing good relationship with St Julians School. We are due to receive in the region of £450 from them for use of the facilities. The school liaison is still Liv Elliott. Netball has ground to a bit of a halt. The issue is getting children to the playing fields. When the sessions took place, they were successful. LH and SH to have a discussion regarding netball with Liv Elliot and also the school.

Pickle Ball. Chris Wordsworth is very keen to set up something with Lansdown Tennis Club but as always it relies on someone leading this and taking ownership. There are some costs involved because there is equipment required such as paddles and markings on the court. Debbie saying that if there are a few people up for it weekly then we could always buy a second storage chest with access to the equipment. Coaching slot on Saturday has now opened up because it has moved to Fridays. There are some costs which could easily be handled but we need people with enthusiasm and commitment to be able to lead it. Probably three to four individuals. Stuart Kotchie and Maggie Fick considered. Is this something that the Rose Foundation money could be used for? We have missed the window for this year probably in any event. Debbie and APG keen to go to Lansdown to suss it out with Chris Wordsworth and perhaps hold an open day at WR. Pickleball was strong on the survey. Padel is another fast-growing activity, but this is not viable due to the fact that you have to build Perspex courts meaning high financial outlay and also noisy and somewhat in contradiction of the peaceful rural setting. Bea raising a question about the outdoor gym and an injury sustained by a child she witnessed. Querying whether or not we are covered. Debbie saying that we don't even need signs it's down to parental supervision. It is on our radar but there is not a better solution at the moment. Pop-up film idea - often when you include the costs and licenses you would need about 200 people to break even. Bea suggesting whether or not a car boot sale might be a way to get more people on to the playing field.

Generally there were many successes but in different areas however we are still a bit behind on organized activity on the field. We are missing a layer of individuals ready to sacrifice their time to be leaders.

**Boules Report: BD**

Please see attached report. Essentially this is a real success story. A fun community activity with a competitive aspect outside of the village. Affordable and welcome to all. They own their own set of boules and people can borrow those. The team also regularly use the pavilion.

### **Pavilion Hire: APG/DC**

APG saying that largely thanks to Debbie Clarkson the pavilion hire has been going well. It is of course a regular facility for tennis players but is also used by the boules team frequently. It worked well as the 10k hub. WR and WVT have joint financial responsibility for the main costs but often WVT pay for larger outgoings such as the recent re-painting. The pavilion is now six years old and was in need of a refresh. We now have anti-slide paint which hopefully will stop people climbing onto the roof. New signage has been put up. The heater and the air con unit have been serviced. Liz W still comes to clean two times a week for half an hour. She is the eyes and ears. There's an issue with the loo handle being forced and Bath Lock and Key are going to fix it. Some discussion about the use of a disabled key.

There was a recent health and safety audit undertaken by BANES for the playpark and we should have the reserves to cover any costs incurred as a result.

### **Election of trustees:**

This is GP's last year as he will have served his maximum number of terms permitted. APG proposes SH and this was seconded by AF: AF proposes LH and seconded by APG: SH proposes AF and seconded by LH: APG proposed GP seconded by MC: LH proposes TH and seconded by SH: SH proposes APG and seconded by LH: APG proposes FS as a trustee.

**Treasurers Report: MC** Please see document attached.

### **Trustees/Elections: SH/PG**

APG proposing that Fiona Schubert be elected as Treasurer of WR. She has worked very well with APG and MC on the financial management of the Village Show and has great experience in working for good causes. Voting took place to elect Fiona in this role.

### **Open Discussion:**

SH saying that there are a few things to be considered in so far as the website such as the publishing of the constitution, the mission objectives, the minutes etc. SH and APG will discuss who is taking on the job of managing the website. Debbie will email SH about sending the relevant documents to Richard Holland.