

Thank you for joining us at our Annual General Meeting. It is lovely to be welcoming everyone in person this year, as our last Two Annual General meetings have been held by Zoom.

It is part of our statutory requirement to our shareholders to report our trading results for the previous financial year. It is also a requirement that our shareholders have an opportunity to ask us as the shop Management committee about our governance of our community owned business.

During the meeting we will present our financial situation and provide a report on our recent business activity. We welcome your thoughts, and I will ensure you are provided with opportunity to raise any questions you may have.

Before we begin, I would like to introduce our outgoing committee members.

Thank you to Maria who has prepared our financial reports and will present to you our financial position at 28th February 2022 this evening.

Agenda

Apologies

Accounts

Resolution 1

Chairs Report

This is our annual opportunity to report to you our members on the financial progress of the business and the work undertaken by the shop committee and staff to support the business. It is also an opportunity for you, our members to ask questions or make suggestions to the committee.

This year as we have slowly started to return to business as normal after the restrictions implemented during The Covid 19 Pandemic have been lifted It has been lovely to welcome back some of our Volunteers.

Our figures reflect the significant positive impact on takings the shop enjoyed during the height of the Pandemic when we benefited from an influx of new customers and customers who chose to shop locally rather than travel out of the area.

As a community Benefit society, we have the option to donate some of our surplus in any financial year to other community projects.

Last year at our AGM when we reported a healthy turnover for the year 20/21 we were able to share some of the profit generated with several other community groups.

- Ashton Hayes and Mouldworth Village Hall - £1500
- Ashton Hayes Sports and Recreation Association –£900
- ASHWORTH Timebank –£300
- Ashton Hayes Parochial Church Council - £600
- Ashton Hayes Primary Scholl PTFA - £1585

Whilst the figures for 21/22 show a more modest profit these are comparable with figures generated pre-Pandemic, and illustrate once again the importance of the volunteers contributions in keeping salary costs to a minimum so that we can maintain a community shop in our rural location.

The challenge this year is also to manage the increasing costs that we are all facing as the energy prices rise and this has a knock on effect to the costs of stock we purchase and the price for services we incur.

This year we are choosing to retain the profit within the business. It is important that we are able to re-invest to help maintain the shop and retain the high standards of presentation we expect. We have recently invested in new more energy efficient lighting and replaced part of the counter top. We have also invested in a new Electronic Point of Sales System which has allowed us to integrate Card payment into the till system.

As I have already stated, the community shop is successful as it is supported with approximately 55 hours of volunteer support each week. Continued volunteer support is vital to the success of the Community shop. Recruiting new volunteers during the Pandemic has been a challenge. We are always willing to welcome new volunteers and training is given for all who come forward. There a variety of tasks that our volunteers are able to support with. If you or anyone you know would be interested in offering support please contact Deb at the shop.

We have previously been able to celebrate and thank our volunteers at a social event in the village, and we are pleased to say that we will be holding our first Thank you event in 2 and a half years this Autumn.

We were also pleased to be represented at the Jubilee celebrations in the village this summer , and the Kelsall Steam Fair and whilst the weather wasn't quite as hoped for at the first of these two events it was nice to see the return of such social events in the village.

I cannot let an AGM pass without saying a big thank you to our staff.

Many thanks to our fabulous team Deb our store manager who is supported by Heather, Linda, Gill Sarah and Yvonne . Many thanks for all their support over this last year and the whole committee would like to thank you for all that you do.