

Thank you for joining us at our Annual General Meeting. We had hoped that we might meet in person this year but we were conscious that many people are not yet confident to meet in large groups so decided to meet on Zoom once again this year

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 be seen and heard.

We are also proposing to record this meeting this evening, to use to record minutes and provide to shareholders who were unable to attend. If you have any objections to this recording, please can you advise now.

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. However, as this is a meeting with a fair number of participants, we would be grateful if you could leave microphones off until prompted to switch them on. If you would like to raise a question during a presentation, please use the chat function to let me know.

In order to record your vote for resolutions that are proposed I would again be grateful if you could use the chat function.

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 2021 this evening.

Agenda

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 has brought many challenges to the way we able to operate the shop, but thanks to Deb, all the staff and volunteers you can see from the financial reports that we have had one of the most successful years to date.

In March last year we entered the first a period of lockdown that required many of our customers and volunteers to isolate at home.

Overnight about 20 of our volunteers were unable to continue to offer their support to the shop. However, it is a testament to the community in which we live that a raft of new volunteers stepped forward to support us to continue to serve our community.

We all had to get used to new ways of shopping and a queue outside the shop became a familiar sight!

With the support of the Parish Council who established the Bridging the gap service we were able to support those of our customers who were unable to shop for themselves and at the peak provided around 60 deliveries each week to our most vulnerable residents through the first and all the subsequent lock down periods.

A particular thank you to Jane Colville for her drive and determination in establishing the bridging the gap services and to the many volunteers who came forward to co-ordinate the picking packing and delivering of the orders.

We would also like to thank the many new customers who visited the store at this time and chose to shop locally, following government advice to stay at home, but many of whom have stayed with us as they were impressed by the range and quality of food on offer.

We were able to benefit from some of the grant funding available to Food Retailers as part of The Covid 19 response from central government which as Maria has described we have invested back into our shop to provide a long-term benefit for our customers. This included the Provision of the outdoor shelter to provide protection from the elements while waiting to enter the store, redecoration internally.

Replacement of our chilled food display and freezer as they were reaching the end of their working life and we will shortly be replacing existing the front door.

Once again, I cannot let an AGM pass without a big thank you to two very special groups of people;

Our Staff

Many thanks to Debs, Heather, Linda, Ann and Gill For all their support over this last very difficult year and the whole committee would like to thank you for all that you do.

Good Luck to Ann as she leaves us to join her husband in his new role in Germany

Good Luck to our Saturday Assistant William as he starts university this September and congratulations on his excellent A level results.

Our Volunteers

We welcomed many new volunteers this year. This 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 and we are always willing to welcome new volunteers

Our aim then as it is now was ***To provide a shop run by the community that meets the needs of the community and provides a consistent offering and reliable service at a fair price.***

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

This year as we are in a position to return some of our surplus to the community. Prior to this meeting, we invited applications from other local organisations for funding for their own projects. We have received a range of applications which I will shortly ask each group to present to you. We are suggesting a total donation of just under £5000 to local groups. The range of applications will support 5 local groups who will provide facilities to many members of our community from the very young to the more mature.