

# **Wilstone Community Shop Limited: Annual Members' Meeting**

## **7<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

### **Chairman's Report**

Good evening everyone and welcome to our sixth Annual Members' meeting. A warm welcome too to any non Shareholders present, your thoughts will be much appreciated but I must just remind you that you will not be able to participate in any of the votes.

We have brought forward the meeting from February to tonight as, as you are aware, we are now faced with decisions regarding the future of the shop.

Just to outline the process for tonight. We will start with the Special Members' Meeting in order to raise and vote on the rule changes which were issued with the meeting invite. I will hand over to Doug for that part of the meeting.

We will then move on to the Annual Members Meeting and I will give my report on the year and Jonathan will then report on the finances which will then be followed by a vote to approve the accounts.

Item 4 on the agenda is the election of new Committee Members, and we are pleased to say that three new people have come forward to sit on the Committee, Susan Brown, Anne Reading and Alla Postings. At this point we will also raise the position of Chair for the Committee. The role of the Committee going forward will also be raised, for example we may wish to consider creating a new group to look at future options.

The final part of tonight's meeting will then move to discuss the options open to the shop after the expiry of our lease in September 2021.

So over to Doug for the Special Members' part of the meeting.

Thank you Doug, that closes the Shareholder Members' Meeting, and now on to the Annual Members' Meeting.

### **Progress to Date**

It's been another good year, and as always at the heart of everything is our fantastic band of volunteers without whom the shop would simply not exist. Once again we say thank you so much to everyone who gets involved, you are all amazing. Special thanks too to the leadership given to us by Ali. Managing us is not always easy; we are a vocal lot all with our own ideas on how things should be done. So keeping us focused and happy requires a huge amount of time, energy and patience and Ali does it all superbly well. Then she has to do the rest of her job! So thank you Ali, you are very much appreciated even if sometimes I'm sure it may not feel like it.

We sadly said goodbye to a few volunteers during 2018, Katie & Chi and very shortly Maisy and Jasmine will be moving on too. We miss each and every one of them but are delighted that they are progressing and moving on to new adventures. Luckily though we have been blessed with several new volunteers: Sue, Kath, Helen, Ridley & Lucas, who are all proving to be a great asset to the team.

This is also our chance to say a big thank you to those volunteers who do crucial roles behind the scenes. Anna for all the book-keeping work, there's a huge amount of it and it's so crucial to the smooth running of the shop; Jonathan in his role as Treasurer for looking after the overall finances and preparing the accounts, and Doug as Secretary for ensuring we continue to meet all our legal obligations. Then there's Dave and Colin for their daily work with the newspapers, plus the new team of John Kaye, Ali & Jonathan – any myself – for taking on the dreaded newspaper vouchers. Mmm we'll let you know on that one!! And, finally to all our lovely cake, sausage roll and preserve makers who have definitely been particularly busy these last few months.

2018 has certainly been a busy year, particularly since all the various building works around the parish got into their stride. There have definitely been times when we've felt a wee bit more like a transport cafe than a community shop. I think we are now all dab hands at making bacon rolls and sausage butties! But

the business has been most welcome, we appreciate these things are transitory so it's important we make the most of it.

As most of you are aware Booker, our main wholesale supplier, proved to be a major headache – particularly for Ali. Thankfully, due to a lot of hard work by her and a timely letter from Abby that issue has been resolved for the time being for which we are grateful, but time will no doubt tell if that will continue. We also very much appreciated all the support we received from everyone at the time.

So a good year but after six years we do now know our business and we know that there are small ups and downs but overall we bump pretty contently along a median line which, in our current mode of operation suits us well. Looking back at the figures since we commenced using EPOS back in 2014 and comparing a week in that November to the comparable week this year the average spend in 2014 was £3.41, the average number of customers 91 and the gross weekly turnover £2187. In 2018 average spend was £4, average number of customers 86 and gross weekly turnover £2167. So you can see how consistent our market is.

What has grown it feels to us working in the shop is what it now means to our community. A shop has always been important to the village but what a Community Shop offers feels so much more.

We have also been able to share this experience with several people from Wigginton as they fought to set up their new Community Shop which opened last Saturday. They too want to achieve the same benefits for their village. Having a fellow community shop so close to us may also give us some good collaborative opportunities which we can look to exploit. What they have learned too in the process of fund raising and building we can, I'm sure, share in the time ahead.

Other events throughout the year have included recognising National Vegetarian Week with our veggie deli offer and organising a 'Children in Need' Ramble – even if it was a bit curtailed due to the weather we still managed raised an amazing £440.

The business environment at present, as many other local businesses are finding, is a particularly challenging one. One too that it feels will not see much improvement in the immediate future. So, as mentioned, the various building projects currently ongoing in the village have been very positive for our shop plus we now forward to welcoming some new villagers in due course.

### **Future Plans**

At this point I would normally move on to cover future plans, but clearly our main focus will be the shop's future location so we will leave that discussion to the session at the end of tonight's meeting.

So I'll now hand over to Jonathan for his Treasurer's Report.

Vote on approving Annual Accounts

Vote on new Committee Members: Susan Brown, Anne Reading and Alla Postings.

Chairman's role: When Nici Ward resigned earlier this year, I agreed to carry on until the next Annual Members' Meeting at that time planned for February 2019. A new Chair with fresh ideas and perspectives may prove invaluable as we move into this next phase. Is there anyone here tonight who would be prepared to consider taking on the role? If not then we will discuss it further at future committee meetings and resolve it there.

That brings to a close the Annual Members' part of tonight's meeting.

**Informal Meeting to discuss future options**

