

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

## **14<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Chairman's Report**

Good evening everyone and a very warm welcome to our seventh Annual Members' meeting. Welcome too to any non Shareholders present, it's great to have you here but just to remind you that you are not able to participate in any votes. Thanks particularly to all of you for coming along on St. Valentine's evening, I guess not your first choice of location so your support is much appreciated

It's been just over a year since our last meeting where we took the first key steps down the road to securing the future of our community shop. A lot has happened since then so this is a great opportunity to update you on progress to date.

So what's the programme for tonight? After I have finished my report Jonathan will update us on the financial situation and we will then take a vote to approve our Annual Accounts.

Next there will be a vote to re-elect some members of the Management Committee who have all put themselves forward for re-election, namely Deborah Chalmers, Anna Evans, Abby Fermont, Jonathan Tymms and myself. Additionally if there is anyone else who would like to put themselves forward to join the Management Committee we would be delighted to have their nominations and put it to the vote. Doug Chalmers will oversee this item.

That will complete the standard business aspects of the meeting and we will then move onto an item of particular interest to us all, the presentation by our Shop Development Committee on our current position.

Finally there will be an opportunity for you to raise any issues or ask any questions that you may have.

We also invite you to stay on after the meeting to join us for a drink and some nibbles and take the opportunity to raise any other thoughts that you may have in a more informal setting. However, we appreciate that, on Valentine's Evening, you may have other places you would prefer to be!!

## Progress to Date

Busy, busy I think sums it up. Our profound thanks have to go to our truly amazing volunteers for really stepping up to the mark as we have expanded our remit into Shop Development and Fundraising. The number of people getting involved, not just in serving in the shop but in an increasingly broad range of other activities, is fantastic. The skills, knowledge and support they have brought to the table I find incredible and have certainly enabled me to face all the challenges for our future with confidence.

As always some special thanks are due. Firstly to Ali for everything she does to keep the shop running efficiently and looking so good. It's certainly no easy role, and it requires a lot more hours than she officially gets paid for and for that we are truly grateful. She is the pivot around which everything else turns so please let's show our appreciation to her now. *Pause for applause*

As always working hard but much more behind the scenes, are Anna for all the bookkeeping, I keep wondering where all the invoices come from! Jonathan for keeping us on the straight and narrow with all matters financial; and Doug for doing the same with all the legal issues as well as taking the lead with our Shop Development Committee.

Then we have Dave Henshaw and Colin on newspapers, and Jon Driver, John Kaye and myself looking after the somewhat frustrating newspaper vouchers! Plus grateful appreciation too to all our cake bakers, sausage roll makers and jam & preserve makers. It always feels like we only just keep up with demand from hungry customers.

This year the thank you's continue as we have had so much additional help needed since our last meeting.

We asked for people to put themselves forward to help with future plans at the special meeting held in January 2019, and we had a fantastic response. We were able to set up a separate Shop Development Committee who have done absolutely amazing work in researching and progressing ideas and enabled us to get to our current position, more on that very shortly.

Running alongside them we now have our Fundraising Committee who has shown a staggering amount of enthusiasm and creativity. Indeed we raised around £9,000 last year for the Save Wilstone Shop fund through the things like amazing items produced by the Wilstone Woolies, the SOCK appeal, raffles at film nights and the coin jar in the shop, plus events such as last year's Open Village, the Sing Wilstone concert and the Live 'n Local event last December. We have also several very generous personal donations. Our very grateful thanks to everyone who has been involved or donated, it has been heart warming indeed.

Then there are all the volunteers who keep the shop running day to day. Thanks to each and every one of you; we have our moments of crisis but you always come up trumps and you are at the core of why our customers love us.

We have had a few people leave since our last meeting so farewell to Sue, Tara, Phil, Paul & Alla, and we will also shortly be saying goodbye to Callum & Harrison who have done sterling Sunday duties for a number of years. But we extend a very warm welcome to Helen, Melanie, Kim, George & Matthew who have slotted into our family perfectly. We also have 3 potential new volunteers who have recently moved to the village and, as always, we would be delighted to hear from anyone else who would like to join our team. Volunteering is well recognised as an important contributor to personal well-being so it's a win win all round.

2019 was a particularly busy year for builders but that has now subsided, until the next development I guess. Trade otherwise continues to remain steady.

What does seem to get stronger and stronger is our place in our community and the spirit that comes from that. Announcing our plans for the future has seen a real outpouring of support from not just people in our parish but from everyone involved with us and that has been truly heartwarming and helps give us the strength to push forward towards our end goal.

### **Future Plans**

Most of that will be covered by the Shop Development Committee presentation. But I would like to say that we are already, in anticipation of a successful outcome, beginning to plan what we would like to do with our new

shop space. It should give us the space to realise the opportunity to enhance our community activities in particular. More on that as our plans develop.

So now I'll hand over to Jonathan for his report, if you have any questions could I ask you please to raise them at the end of the meeting.

Jonathan .....

Vote on approving Annual Accounts

Doug to handle MC election for Deborah, Anna, Abby, Jonathan and myself plus ask if there are any other volunteers to join the Committee

Shop Purchase presentation

Any other business and Members' observations

Final thanks and close meeting