

Kirkby Malzeard Mechanics Institute Village Hall (MIVH)

Chairs Report from the Trustees 2019

Dear Members and residents of the Parish,

The report for the Annual General Meeting this year is slightly different from previous report formats, in that, rather than reflecting on successes and failures we are going to look to the future.

We have, as a Village Hall organisation a dedicated and hardworking group of Trustees and although most of us have been historically self-nominated, as far as our legal constitution is concerned we are elected and represent you the members in our decision-making process and day to day running of the premises. Many of our Trustees are also very active members of other groups within our community. We welcome any self-nominated volunteers to join the MIVH Trustees Committee which usually meets once per month.

We have welcomed 2 new sections to our organisation this year, The Kirkby Malzeard Players and The Lunch club. We have also welcomed and encouraged the start of the Kirkby Malzeard Youth Club on to the premises.

I reported last year, optimistically about our development plans, a building re structure and the creation of a 'community hub' via a Building Communities Lottery grant application. Our initial proposal was turned down, however the feedback from our Lottery advisor was very positive. She said that our application satisfied most of the building communities' criteria but on this occasion, there were a number of more 'worthy applicants' and the amount available had to be prioritised. Further feedback also suggested that we had to create greater links with other 'stakeholder' organisations within the Parish in order to achieve our long-term objectives.

Bearing the above statement in mind, we are not deterred from making progress on our plans. We sought the Trustees permission to approach the Chair of the Parish Council with a view to investigating the creation of a Kirkby Malzeard Community Association. A Community Association, representing, member groups of the community would have the capacity to raise funds, coordinate events and identify and prioritise the needs of the village. Permission for this meeting was granted and set up with the Trustees and representatives of the PC.

At this meeting it was agreed that an open forum would be held with stakeholder groups within the village. This process has now begun, and two successful meetings have recently taken place. At the last meeting we invited a representative consultant from Yorkshire 1st to attend in order to give us some guidance on potential governance and merger issues. His advice was first of all to establish what each organisation's current registered charity status is, with a future view to establishing a Community Association as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Further discussion took place regarding the two major community asset holding organisations i.e. we MIVH and the Highside Playing Fields Association HSPFA. Both organisations have agreed to look into their current constitutional status and to meet early in March to discuss the potential for any future, formal partnership progress.

We have proved this year that as individuals within our community we can come together to support exciting events such as the Tour de Yorkshire day and the Summer Ball. If the Community Association process continues successfully, you as members will have to make the final decision on changes, as any constitutional changes will have to be approved by a majority of the membership.

This would be the start of an exciting new chapter for 'community cohesion' for Kirkby Malzeard, benefitting all groups within our village, including the commercial sectors, and have the potential for the application of grants for future initiatives, capital enhancements and the employment of personnel to drive them forward.

We will continue to look forward with optimism for the year ahead and welcome your input into the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of our organisation on Tuesday 5th February at 7pm. in the MIVH Reading Room. This will be followed by the monthly meeting of the Trustees Committee.