



The Garboldisham Fox



MINUTES OF THE GARBOLDISHAM FOX CIC SHAREHOLDERS ANNUAL MEETING 7:30 PM THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT GARBOLDISHAM VILLAGE HALL

Directors present: Janet Hance (**JH**), David Mills (**DM**), Wendy Johnston (**WJ**), Louisa Evans (**LE**), Fi Entwistle (**FE**), Iain Entwistle (**IE**), Chris Foulds (**CF**)

Chairman: William Nunn (**WN**)

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Geoffrey Leigh.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Meeting

Approved.

3. Speeches by candidates for election of new Board

Each of the ten candidates standing for election were asked to leave the room. They were invited one at a time in random order to speak to the audience for a maximum of 3 minutes each.

4. Vote for new Board

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Finance

DM summarised the figures for the financial year ending March 2023. Revenue at record levels (£149k). Cash accumulated in Building Fund £93k up from £48k at the end of last year. Overall a great performance given the difficulties encountered during the pandemic. Thanks to all our customers, volunteers and Directors past & present.

Questions:

Fixed assets have reduced since last year. Why?

Explanation to be provided following consultation with Lovewell Blake.

5.2 Premises

WJ summarised the main improvements carried out over the last year.

Inside: a major repair to the Bressemer beam above the Inglenook fireplace was completed to guarantee its structural integrity for the foreseeable future.



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Outside; John, Ken, Paul, Mark & Ian regraded the ramp up to the car park to improve access. The bank at the rear of the garden was cleared and terraced to deal with the rabbit problem.

Garden; planting of the terraces was ongoing based on a plan that Tacchi's have agreed to assist with.

General; firewood stocked up for Winter, new outdoor bar built in lower marquee, new floor and cover installed in upper marquee.

5.3 Volunteers

FE thanked all the volunteers who had helped out during the past year.

95% of customer feedback has been 5* and the general message was to keep on doing what we're doing.

The rota was becoming increasingly harder to fill especially the late shifts at the weekend. FE explained that if people were able to do just one shift whenever they could it would help enormously.

5.4 Bar & Cellar

CF reported positive sales on real ale throughout the year; 250-300 pints each weekend. Some products had been changed out based on sales and customer feedback. The new lager, Bruha, was proving to be a particular success.

Price increases were due to be implemented over the coming month following recent changes to alcohol duty rates; wines and spirits were most likely to be effected.

5.5 Events

LE summarised the year's events and thanked all those involved including;

- Alistair Fitzgerald & Julie Finnis for being our regular Quizmasters,
- Jonathan Dutton et al for vinyl nights (in particular the 70s night) and also to Robbie Starling and the Beer Festival Committee for all the hard work which went in to making this year's event our most successful ever,
- Ian & Suzanne Skipper for organising & overseeing the Winter Beer Festival and Cider Festival,
- All our food vendors as well as IE for organising,

Events would not be able to go ahead without the efforts of the committee, volunteers, customers and Directors. All their hard work was very much appreciated.

5.6 Communications Report

JH emphasised the importance of communications to the continued success of the pub and pointed out all the different ways in which people were kept informed of what is happening including local magazines, social media as well as the noticeboard outside the pub and posters around the village.



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Thanks to all who helped with café; £6439 raised over last 2 years. Enjoyable and popular occasion.

Thanks were also expressed to our team of cleaners.

5.8 Company Matters

IE explained the reasoning why the Board recommended the proposed option for the new toilets;

- It satisfied one of the areas for improvement identified by our customers,
- It provided wheelchair access to make The Fox more accessible to all,
- It improved the overall look of the rear of the building,
- It kept the WCs away from any proposed new kitchen area,
- It allowed us to develop the opposite end of the building for other things e.g. new kitchen area,
- It was more cost effective than providing a separate disabled toilet at the North end of the building,

The shareholders were asked to vote on whether to go ahead with the project to refurbish the toilets in accordance with the recently received planning approval. However, a number of those present felt that insufficient information had been made available for them to make a decision so the Board were asked to provide the shareholders with further details of all the options considered.

6 Written Questions

It was agreed that the list of questions received prior to the meeting together with the responses from the new Board would be circulated to shareholders in due course.

7 Election Result

Iain Entwistle	77 votes	Elected
Louisa Evans	80 votes	Elected
Alistair Fitzgerald	52 votes	
Chris Foulds	77 votes	Elected
Janet Hance	86 votes	Elected
Ashley Harris	86 votes	Elected
Wendy Johnston	59 votes	Elected
Greig Morris	72 votes	Elected
Ian Skipper	47 votes	
Suzanne Skipper	19 votes	

8 Meeting Closure