

The Radley Village Shop Association Limited
Minutes of AGM held on 21 May 2025 at 7 pm at Radley Church Room

Present:

Chairman Andrew Walker
Treasurer Lynda Pasquire Crowley

Plus 21 Members of the Association and 7 non-members

1. Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following members: Pat Earl, John Huddleston, Joyce Huddleston and Graham Steinsberg.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 21 May 2024

These were approved as a correct record (proposed: Carol Webster; seconded: Tony Rogerson).

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. Chairman's report

This has been my third year as Chairman. The Shop's trading position remained good throughout the 12 months despite significant upwards pressure on costs and operational impacts. My thanks to John Goodenough, our Shop Manager, the Management Committee and all the volunteers who worked so tirelessly during the year to keep the Shop running.

The commercial decision of our local Oxford wholesaler, Booker, to continue to pull back from supplying the retail trade increased the demands on John Goodenough, Sally Mulholland and Julie O'Hare to keep the Shop well stocked with quality items (including John travelling to Reading in a hired van each week to pick and transport stock). With inflation running at around 10% at the start of 2024, we saw significant monthly price variations from our suppliers, but these were carefully monitored and sale prices adjusted accordingly to maintain our sales margins. High inflation also meant higher staff and business costs (particularly energy costs), all of which led to a marked decrease in the overall surplus at the end of 2024 compared with 2023.

The 2024 Social Event for volunteers was a re-run of the 2023 event, a Summer Garden Party at my house in Radley, except this time we were blessed with glorious summer sunshine. My thanks to the ladies of the Radley WI, who kindly catered the event, and to my wife for agreeing to host the gathering in our garden.

In autumn 2024 the Shop was able to award financial grants to nine organisations with a social or charitable purpose operating within the community it serves. I'm keen that the Shop continues to support local good causes, as long as a financial surplus allows, and there will be an opportunity later in the meeting to approve a recommendation that the Shop again provides grants for village projects in 2025.

While my AGM report would normally just cover the activities of the previous financial year, you will all be aware that a lot has happened in early 2025 and I'd like to take this opportunity to provide a quick update.

Our long-standing Shop Manager, John Goodenough, was diagnosed in early 2025 with stage 4 cancer. He immediately embarked on six months of chemotherapy treatment, necessitating a prolonged absence from the Shop. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help fill rota slots, place orders, check stock, clean shelves, organise deliveries and generally ensure the shop has been able to continue trading. John's treatment is going well, but he will be away for a little while yet. To fill the gap, we have formally interviewed someone for the post of temporary Relief Shop Manager who – about an hour ago – accepted the position.

Our previous chairman, Bob Earl, lost his battle against cancer at the end of January 2025. A collection box at the shop raised a total of £250 in his memory. The Management Committee agreed the Shop should match the money raised, meaning £500 was given on behalf of customers, volunteers and the Shop itself to Bob's chosen charity – the restoration of the Saxon Tower at the Oxford church he and Pat attended for many years.

We began last month receiving stock from Parfett's, a national wholesaler, which offers free deliveries. John Huddleston and I worked with the developers and support team at Reposs (our EPOS provider) who developed a bespoke data importer for the Shop (at no extra cost) to allow us to use the electronic invoices from Parfett's to automatically update our stock system. This 'game changer' for the Shop has eliminated the need for someone to drive to Oxford or Reading each week to purchase and collect stock from Booker, an expensive, arduous and time-consuming process.

The Chairman's report was illustrated by photos of the Summer Garden Party for volunteers and the differing approaches to obtaining stock from Booker (pick and transport) and Parfett's (online order and delivery).

6. Treasurer's report

Turnover increased in 2024 from £291,929 to £306,306 (meaning our Village Shop has daily average takings of over £800). After purchases of £239,331 (£222,958 in 2023), the gross profit fell from £68,971 to £66,975. The gain on the year was much less than in 2023 due to higher costs of produce sourced. Our expenses increased substantially from £54,598 to £62,237 – in part due to salary costs, higher energy costs and bank charges. During 2024, Booker's decision to stop supplying local corner shops forced us to incur extra costs hiring transport to travel further to locations where they did have stock. This added to the workload and journey time of our Shop Manager along with the volunteers who gave extra time to travel distances to pick up supplies. It is with some satisfaction that we have found another wholesaler who is filling the void left by Booker and we are starting to see a return to our usual margins as a result.

Grants paid out in 2024 amounted to £1401 with a further £1000 reserved for distribution in 2025.

I am grateful to Ben Hayes at Wenn Townsend for examining our Accounts on a reduced fee basis and have no hesitation in recommending the appointment of Wenn Townsend as our examiners for the current year.

I could not do the job of treasurer without the help of other people. My personal thanks go to Sue Ward and Joyce Huddleston, who assist me with an enormous amount of their time; their invaluable help is very much appreciated. Graham Steinsberg receives our thanks for his continued overview of our financial accounts. I would also endorse the appreciation expressed by the Chairman for the efforts of our dedicated team of volunteers who work so hard to make the shop a success and to wish our Shop Manager, John Goodenough, continued recovery to full health and a return to work.

7. Adoption of the Financial Statement

Ann Blake proposed and Malcolm Hurdus seconded the adoption, which was carried unanimously.

8. Adoption of motion to give the Management Committee discretion to appoint the Auditors until the conclusion of the next AGM

Cyril Ball proposed and Heather Rogerson seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

9. Adoption of recommendation that there should be an Accountant's report instead of a full Auditor's report

Carol Webster proposed and Cyril Ball seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

10. Adoption of recommendation for grants for village projects up to a total of £1,000

(i) Payment of grants: Carol Webster proposed and Ann Blake seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

(ii) Management Committee authority: Tony Rogerson proposed and Pam Grant seconded the motion to adopt the recommendation. This was carried unanimously.

11. Election of Management Committee until conclusion of next AGM

All members of the existing Management Committee were happy to stand for re-election. Cyril Ball proposed and Pam Grant seconded the motion to re-elect them. This was carried unanimously. There are two vacancies on the Management Committee; anyone who felt they could contribute was urged to speak to the Chairman.

12. Any other business

(a) Tony Rogerson thanked the Chairman, the Management Committee and all the volunteers for the fantastic job they were doing, especially since John Goodenough's enforced absence. Clapping from those present endorsed his thanks, which were echoed by the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the AGM and the meeting closed at 7:35 pm.