

The Braishfield Pantry AGM Tuesday 9th October 6pm in the Pantry

Meeting Notes

The following were present for the Pantry AGM: -

Pantry Directors -

Ian Barrow (AGM Chairman/spokesman)

Meri Knights

Gemma Quarendon (AGM note taker)

Pantry Committee Members –

Iain Coleman

Anne Edwards

Sharon Fielding (Pantry Supervisor)

Lin Hughes

Joy O'Dell

Members of the Public (including several Pantry volunteers) –

Graham Bennett

Angela Bevan

Jimmy Chestnutt

Mike Edwards

Ian Knights

Hazel Prince

Mike Prince

David Quarendon

Wendy Quarendon

David Robinson

Viv Robinson

Carolyn Ward

Apologies were received from: -

Malcolm Ayres

Nicky Ayres

Jane Bennett

Diane Brazier

Richard Brazier

Mike Ransom

Sue Ransom

Ian Barrow welcomed everyone to the Pantry's first AGM. And as a thank you to everyone for coming, gave reference to a special 10% discount on selected items offered after the meeting.

After giving a brief background to the formation of the Pantry as a trading company, completely separated from the Village Hall (but with the Village Hall as the sole shareholder), Ian Barrow talked through the report's four sections in turn – financial, volunteers and events, stock/suppliers and the future. The report had previously been shared through the email network, on the Pantry website, and several copies were on the tables at the meeting¹.

The first section on the Pantry's finance gave a broad overview of the Pantry's position since becoming a separate entity. The full accounts had previously been approved at the Village Hall's AGM earlier in the year. The overall outlook given was positive with trends very much looking up. However, it was made clear that the Pantry cannot become complacent, with the example given of how a poor Christmas (the Pantry's biggest trading period) would have the effect of painting a very different picture.

There was a request to see the fuller profit and loss figures associated with the Pantry accounts. This is something the Pantry is very willing to do and Iain Coleman will look to see how this information can be usefully shared.

Ian Barrow began the volunteers' section with a thanks to all the Pantry's wonderful volunteers – both those who work behind the counter but also those who play a more behind the scenes role. Without the support of all volunteers the Pantry simply wouldn't be able to function.

Ian also made note of all the extra activities the Pantry has been involved with, such as Wendy and her Story Time sessions, and the children coming up from the school to learn all about working in a small business.

Joy O'Dell a volunteer since the very beginnings of the Pantry, and now a committee member, wrote a piece about her experience as a volunteer for the report, which Ian read out in full. This was very well received by all present and a suggestion was put forward that this should be put in the next edition of the village newsletter. So, keep an eye out in the next edition!

As always, Ian was keen to note our continued need for volunteers – just speak to a member of the team.

3-4 extra events a year is an aim the Pantry attempts to hold in order to both raise the profile of the Pantry and bring in much need extra revenue. These events have included wine tasting, Christmas late night shopping, as well as this year's Afternoon Tea in celebration of the Royal Wedding. Look out for future events.

The Stock and Supplier section highlighted the many different ways in which new stock and suppliers are found and just how anyone can put forward suggestions. Ian made particular mention of the fruit and vegetables that green fingered villagers have been kindly donating to the Pantry when they have excess. Such initiatives really do keep the stock local!

¹ Post meeting note – copies of the report were left on the Pantry coffee tables after the meeting.

Ian concluded by noting that after quite a period of change as the Pantry became a separate trading company and the appointment of directors, the Pantry is now in a much more settled state. However, Ian pointed out the need to keep moving to ensure the continued success of the Pantry.

The report was accepted.

Several individuals in attendance offered thanks for all the work of those involved in the Pantry for their efforts, others noting that they bragged about the shop to friends.

Both the Parish Council and Village Hall also offered their thanks to Sharon and team for their commitment to Braishfield.

It was noted that better signage was still needed as the Pantry isn't visible from the road². The Parish Council is looking into this moving forward.

Ian Barrow brought the Pantry's first AGM to a close and invited all to have a browse and take advantage of the 10% discount.

² Post meeting note – a couple of additional signs have been put up to help make the Pantry more visible whilst a more longer-term solution is found.