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**AGM**

**Held on Wednesday 14th September 2020**

**at 4:30 via Zoom (due to Coronavirus)**

*Present:*

Committee - Sarah Scanlon (Chair), Val Holman (Secretary), Juliet Collis (Treasurer), Vici Hemming (Volunteers Co-ordinator)

*Others:*

Despite everyone being given access to join the Zoom meeting, sadly there were no other people present

*Apologies:*

Kate Brampton, Chris Weaving, Jenny Weaving, Graham Gilbert, Linda Hart, Kerry Taylor

**Sarah (Chair)** opened the meeting and gave the following report:

Thank you very much for attending this unique USS AGM via Zoom. We really appreciate your support and interest. I was reading last year’s AGM reports and nobody could have imagined how life was going to change in the space of 6 months.

USS started out not only as a place to buy and sell locally produced foods and crafts but it clearly became apparent over the months ahead that USS was and still is an opportunity where people love to get together, have a chat over a drink and keep in touch with friends and neighbours. During lockdown, the Ugborough support group offered a brilliant and much needed facility of keeping in touch with people and helping out where necessary and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sue Johns for her magnificent leadership skills in managing to oversee this quite demanding task.

We have missed hosting USS these past months and would love nothing better than to open up the doors of the village hall, brew the coffee and start meeting again, but we are all far too aware of the risks involved and at this time, as a committee we have decided to formally suspend USS for a further 6 months. Hopefully, during this dormancy phase, life will get a little safer and we will be able to restart USS. This decision will be reviewed on a regular basis.

We have so many talented producers who have missed coming to our fortnightly gatherings and I know that some have asked if they can continue selling their products on line. We will be launching a producer list of contacts for those who want to and are able to continue providing their goods and will publicise this facility on our face book page and on the USS section of the parish website soon.

This year Juliet has taken up the reins of Treasurer and the committee have been so grateful for her efficiency, knowledge and energy. Thank you, Juliet, for all that you do. Juliet will outline USS finances and plans for the future in her report. I would personally like to thank Val and Vici for all that they do to make the smooth running of USS in the hall and behind the scenes. Who would have imagined that Val would be arranging a virtual AGM meeting on our home computers? People keep talking about the “new normal” but we are not quite sure what that means at the moment and how it is going to look like in the future.

I have decided that after holding the post of Chair for the last 5 years, I am stepping down from this position. As mentioned previously, during lock down, the support Ugborough group really pulled together and I hope that the same spirit will come to light when we can re-open USS and the committee will be actively looking for someone or a group of people to help run this very special and important part of Ugborough and the parish. I will always be there to help and support the committee and the running of the event and cannot wait for the next USS potluck supper. Activity’s already planned! Thank you

**Treasurer’s Report from Juliet:**

Report as at 31st August 2020

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**Election of Committee:**

Sarah stepped down as Chair. The other members of the committee were happy to continue in their posts, Val as Secretary, Juliet as Treasurer, and Vici as Volunteers Co-ordinator. The post of Chair will remain empty until someone comes forward to fill the vacancy.

**Any Other Business:**

Reopening of USS was discussed briefly. Our last USS was on 14th March and since then there have been none due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There are no immediate plans to reopen due to concerns about health, and the safety of both producers and those attending. We will be monitoring the situation carefully and will discuss at regular intervals until it is determined that it is safe to resume.

**Next AGM will be held in September 2021**