



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on
12 April 2017**

Trustees Present:

Nick Viney (Chairman), John Hynan (Treasurer), Tim Arnold (Secretary), Hugh Cochrane, Jack Ross, Mark Hill, Claude Bonfanti.

Representatives Present:

Tim Hoad (Games Club).

Attending:

David & Shiela Johnson, Patrick & Sarah Magill, Debbie Handy, Jane Viney, Liz & Tim Hoad, Claire Barnes, Ali Arnold, Chris & Nicola Brooker, Robert & Gaenor Lobley, Robert & Pat Waithman, Helen Stewart.

1. **Apologies**

Sam & Jane Davies, Mandy Shanks.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting**

No matters arising not covered in the Agenda.

3. **Chairman's Annual Report**

Constitution The Trustees had an extended debate during 2016 about whether we could legally employ Trustees, and whether funds could be spent on causes other than the Village Hall itself. After taking legal advice, all agreed unanimously not to change the constitution. It was agreed that the current version allowed us to employ Trustees provided we ensured that we behaved responsibly, i.e. put large jobs out to tender etc. It was also agreed that the current version also allowed us to give funds raised at village events, eg the fête, to other causes provided these causes were clearly advertised in advance of specific events.

Improvements New lighting, heating controls, a new bookcase to allow second hand book exchange, defibrillator - currently kept in the hall kitchen, but will eventually be outside, once the approved box has been purchased.

Directory The village directory of emails and phone numbers has been updated hopefully allowing better passage of news and information to all residents, particularly those without email or internet.

General maintenance Rubbish collection working well; the Chairman is happy to continue as caretaker, booking cleaning as required; the School House tenancy seems stable.

Village Hall Usage Still potential for more casual use? Themed evenings (Barnes, French and Burns evenings popular), new more informal 'Worth Wednesdays' and use for local celebrations are happening but only occasionally.

Further Points:

Jerry Burden & Jenny Hynan having resigned, the Chairman extended an invitation for new Trustees. Helen Stewart offered to join the team. VH Sec to send copy of Trust Deed to all new Trustees.

Nick Viney commented positively on the recent party hosted by Claire Barnes, with excellent use of the space - seating 58 guests at tables in the main hall - as an example of good use of the facilities, available to all residents. He also praised Jack Daniels and Karla Cherry for their support at the function: excellent food and music. VH Sec reminded us that the broadband and phone line is fully operational, with details on the indoor notice board, and in the 'Terms & Conditions for Hirers'. Claire suggested more photos could be added to the website.

Ali Arnold mentioned a recent family party for c.18 guests which also worked very well.

Nick further spoke about using the hall as a 'Walk-In' centre, albeit in so doing, one might not meet anyone else walking in at the same time. It was noted again that the 'Worth Wednesdays' gathering, open to all, was a good starting point for a drop-in. Mark Hill echoed this from his own experience.

4. Treasurer's Annual Report

Due to a misunderstanding by the VH Sec, there were no printed copies of the accounts at the meeting. Anybody wanting to see them please email the Treasurer, who nonetheless summarised as follows:

The account achieved a surplus of £7,960, from income of £15,600. Principal sources were the School House rent at £6,000, Hall hire at £4,500 and the fête at £4,800. Income was up by 5%, expenditure down 5.5%. Significant expenditure included new upstairs cupboards at £3,000, clearing extra storage space in the shed as a result.

The hall fund currently has a £42,000 'cushion' against possible maintenance & repairs, a figure which prompted the Trustees to agree an alternative beneficiary for the fête this year.

It was agreed that the accounts were in good order, with a healthy balance in reserve. The Treasurer was thanked for all his hard work over the past year, as was John Woolsacks, retiring this year, who has audited the account.

5. **Trustee's Elections**

The extant Chairman and Trustees were re-elected, and the following new Trustees appointed:

Claude Bonfanti
Sam Davies
Helen Stewart

Proposed by Jack Ross, seconded by Mark Hill; unanimous.

6. **Events**

Tim Arnold outlined forthcoming events:

Fête 29th May

All in hand, following a useful 'Fête Helpers' meeting on 16th March. Most 'home' stalls were filled, drinks licence approved by DCC for Pimms, and a number of external local stall holders expressing interest. DCC Highways has still not approved the Road Closure notice applied for in late January, in part due to problems caused last year with access down to the SE corner of the village. This section will remain open this year. Proceeds from the Fête will pay for the village defibrillator, with the balance donated to Forest Holme Hospice.

PASH 14 July - 20th August

Arts & Crafts in the village hall, with refreshments.

BBQ on the Green 26th August

Chris & Nicola Brooker have kindly agreed to reinstate and organise this event, after popular request from a number of locals. They outlined that it will be an actual BBQ, provided by an external local caterer who will also supply salads and desserts. Tickets will be sold from the village shop.

Christmas Festival 15th December

The usual carols on the green, plus live music & hot food.

Tim Arnold thanked all those who've been helping organise events, and reiterated that there are plenty of willing helpers available should anyone want to suggest another themed evening or 'bring & share'.

Tim Hoad reminded us of the weekly Games Club, Wednesday evenings 7.30pm, open to all, and that we need an organiser for Table Tennis to bring this back into the evening's activities.

Other events to be confirmed include a visit to Phil Samways' farm, and a tour of the new Lifeboat Station in Swanage, possibly followed by a beach BBQ. However, both are at early stages; neither potential host has been approached yet.

7. Maintenance & Improvement Expenditure

Shiela Johnson requested that the fence surrounding the electricity substation be repainted. [Mark Hill at subsequent Trustees meeting agreed to do this before the fête]. Shiela also asked the Trustees to examine the state of the shed, and consider repairs, and for there to be more work done on the lawn - removing moss etc.

Debbie Handy questioned judgement of those who selected a modern, light oak bookcase for the committee room. However it was decided not to paint it; and that as the committee room now has modern lighting, picture framing and double-glazing, it blends in very well.

8. Public Discussion

Ali Arnold proposed a vote of thanks to Shiela Johnson for her many hours of hard work on the village withy bed, which has transformed it into a beautiful focus in the village. She also thanked Mark Hill for tending the village pond, which had begun to look very natural, with lilies growing and pond life thriving. Everyone agreed, and thanked both for their efforts.

Debbie Handy spoke about a new initiative to watch for illegal parking on the bend opposite the church, which has caused a milk lorry to have to reverse and re-position in order to get down the hill. Others mentioned the risk of obstruction to emergency vehicles around this corner. Debbie explained that the PC have a plan to improve access through the village.

9. There was no other business.

Date of the Next AGM

Date to be announced, during Easter Holidays 2018.

Nick Viney
Chairman
28 Apr 17