

St Margaret's Hall Management Committee Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Saturday. 7 May 2016. 0930

1. Present

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair), Gareth Cherry (Treasurer), Emilie Gordon, Gillian Miles, Jacqueline Pyne, John Macdonald (Chair).

2. Apologies

Vicky Franklin, Maria Hawkins, Charles James, Tim O'Keeffe, Hannah Williamson.

It was with regret that the death of one of our former Trustees, Robert Neave, was announced during the previous month. Robert served on the committee for ten years from 2003 and was always a cheerful presence and was a great practical help to the Hall. JM has written a personal letter to Robert's widow and included condolences from the Committee.

3. Approval of Accounts 2015/6. Previously circulated.

Accounts approved. Proposed CB, Seconded EG.

Once again John Fleming has kindly audited and signed off our accounts and the Committee are grateful to John for auditing our accounts. JM has written a letter of thanks to John on the Committees's behalf.

4. Minutes of previous meeting on 16th May 2015.

Previously circulated, signed. Minutes approved.

5. Matters arising.

None.

6. Chair report.

Trustees report for the year April 2015 to March 2016

The Charities governing document is the trust deed, the original copy of which is held by the chairman of the Committee.

A management committee is formed each year. Presently it numbers 11.

Representatives of user groups will make up part of the committee.

There are no paid staff. Trustees received no remuneration. Out of pocket expenses on behalf of St Margaret's Hall are repaid.

The charities bankers are: HSBC Bank, Yeovil Branch.

Our insurers are: Aviva Plc.

The object of the trustees is to provide a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Horsington, County of Somerset. The Hall should be held upon trust for the purposes of physical and mental recreation and training and social moral and intellectual development for the benefit of the inhabitants.

The trustees are pleased to report that these objectives continue to be met.

The Pilates classes continue under the instruction of Carol Pirie. Jean Powell's Upholstery classes are held on a Tuesday which is followed by Badminton in the evening. Louise Holliday now instructs her students on Wednesday mornings. The very popular art classes run on Thursdays and Fridays.

The monthly meeting of the WI continues to be held in the hall as do meeting's of the Parish Council.

Unfortunately, we have lost two of our trustees this past year, June Wood succumbed after a long illness and Jean Handy died quite suddenly. Both were pillars of our society and valued members of our Committee. The trustees members have been bolstered by two new recruits, Gillian Miles and Tim O'Keeffe. Tim has taken over the trustees position of representative of the South Cheriton Football Club from Keith Norman. We are hoping to recruit a representative for the WI in the near future which will bring our numbers up to an ideal of twelve Trustees.

St Margaret's Hall continues to maintain a healthy financial position. We retain a sensible amount (just under £10000) in reserve. This was reduced in the previous financial year when the interior of the Hall was refurbished. The main hall was repainted and new radiators installed with high level fans which help destratisfy the air in order to maintain a comfortable atmosphere by circulating the air throughout the whole room. The curtains were replaced with Roman blinds. The Hall held a successful fund raiser in February. Our popular Village Hall dinner raised considerable funds (just over £750) for the reserve. My thanks must go to the members of the community who attended and generously supported us. Also thanks should go to the other members of the committee for all the help in everything from cooking to the organisational skills required for the successful evening we undoubtedly had. The fall in the price for heating oil has helped. Day to day classes and the renting of the changing rooms to the SCUFC keep our current account in surplus. Our Treasurer has completed the process of gaining entitlement to Discretionary Rate Relief which helps our cash flow. We continue to maintain our charges set at the level in 2008, which remain competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages.

The website horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk is edited by the Deputy Chair and provides a platform for information, feedback and occasional bookings.

The fire risk assessment is carried out each year at the time the fire extinguishers are inspected by an outside company. Our triennial electrical inspection is due in April this year and routine maintenance is carried out on the heating boiler and kitchen electrical equipment on an annual basis.

We continue to maintain our Hallmark 1 category which covers all aspects of management, forward planning and development. The triennial inspection by the Hallmark assessors is due later this year.

The Hall Management Committee is grateful to the Parish Council for its continued monitoring and maintenance of the Hall surrounds.

7. Treasurers report.

St Margaret's Hall continues to be in a strong financial position with accumulated funds and cash on hand currently standing at £11,607.

With continued positive cash flow (excluding major works) the committee have through the course of the year continued with improvements to the hall; this year replacing the central heating radiators as well as installing ceiling fans for even warm air distribution as well as new roman blinds at a total cost of £5,049.61. The hall is well positioned to carry out repairs to the floor during the next financial year as well as being in a position to replace the ageing boiler as and when required.

The hall saw a 21% fall in income from lettings/classes but a 60% increase in income from donations and fund raising events, namely the annual dinner. The committee is aware and mindful of the fall in income from lettings/classes and will initiate an advertising/awareness campaign in the local magazine "The Horsington and South Cheriton Villager" to hopefully secure further lettings and more generally to highlight to new residents that St Margaret's Hall is available to be hired.

After GC gave his report there was some discussion about funding. CB raised the point that he felt that as non tax payers the Hall was, to some extent, milking the public purse when we hired the Hall to the local council for elections, especially as we were well funded and as GC had explained, apart from capital outflow for the upgrade for the hall, we had positive a cash flow. GC explained that our cash flow from classes and lettings had decreased by some 20% over the last fiscal year. JM felt we could ill afford to lose the revenue. CB suggested that perhaps we could make a contribution to another charity. JP countered by explaining that as a charity we were legally barred from giving to other charities. GC then suggested we should attempt to let the hall in the periods that it was not utilised. JM undertook to place a notice in 'the Villager' and CB the same through the 'Horsington Blog'.

8. Bookings report.

The Village Hall continues to be a venue for the WI, Parish Council, Classes and Election Polling Station. This gives a steady predictable income. With the update and decoration of the main hall there seems to be an increase in the number of party bookings for the summer and the feedback from hirers has been overwhelmingly positive. Everything is running smoothly with nothing else to report.

9. Sports Report.

Report for the South Cheriton United Football Club.

The Senior team started well in their first season in the Dorset Premier League, but they ended third from the bottom of the league. This mainly due to the fact that the team's players are not paid and four or five of the better players decamped to surrounding teams that pay their players. The Reserves also finished third from the bottom of their league, but considering their youth, they were playing against men 3 to 4 years older than themselves, they did well. The under 18's became defunct because they were unable to field a team.

The Youth teams did well in their respective leagues. The U14's finished fourth in division 1. The U12's finished fourth in their division. The U10's finished fifth in their division. The U9's were promoted to the top league and U7/8's played well to reach the semi-final of the cup in their age group.

10. Resignation of Committee.

The Committee resigned.

The meeting closed at 1020.