

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

Friday. 28 May 2021. 1900.

Acceptance of Accounts 2019/20 and 2020/21. Previously circulated.

The accounts for the year 2019/20 and 2020/21 have been audited and signed off by Peter Gripper. The Committee are grateful and thank Peter for carrying out this task. Prior to the meeting all present were asked if there were any questions on the accounts and if they were satisfactory. There was a discussion about the ethics of accepting the Government Covid grant and on balance the committee felt that the monies could be used wisely to the benefit of the future of the Hall. OF questioned the payment of the cleaning staff during the Lockdown. JM explained the cleaners had been allocated differing tasks for their hour of cleaning, which would normally entail cleaning of the kitchen and toilets. All indicated the accounts were acceptable. Our thanks go to GC for all the hard work put into producing the accounts over the years.

1. Present

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair), Vicky Franklin, Oliver Franklin, Emilie Gordon, Gillian Miles, John Macdonald (Chair).

2. Apologies

Gareth Cherry (Treasurer), Ann Franklin, Maria Hawkins, Jacqueline Pyne, Liela Moss.

3. Approval of Accounts 2019/20

Accounts approved. Proposed CB, Seconded GM.

Approval of Accounts 2020/21

Accounts approved. Proposed VF, Seconded CB.

4. Minutes of previous meeting on 4th May 2019.

Previously circulated. Minutes approved and signed.

As indicated in the report by the chair, the reason for no meetings held in the previous year were entirely down to the Covid 19 pandemic. The duties of the Hall officers and safety checks and risk assessments were completed regardless of the Coronavirus lockdown.

5. Matters arising.

None.

6. Chair report.

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 10. 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: Insure your Village Hall.

SMM 21/1

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.

As required by South Somerset District Council, the Hall has been closed during the Coronavirus pandemic.

At the time of writing the potential date for reopening is 17 May 2021 subject to Government Covid regulations and the possible date for opening, free of restrictions, is 21 June 2021.

The trustees report that the Hall objectives have continued to be met during the closure and the short period at the end of 2020 when activities were allowed under Covid limitations.

Unfortunately, during the shutdown, the Pilates classes under the instruction of Carol Pirie have ceased. Ms. Pirie has moved from the district. The Upholstery classes have also stopped. The instructor feeling that he was too old to continue the classes. The very popular art classes will continue to be run on Thursdays and Fridays. A Yoga class has started under the auspices of South Cheriton resident Emma Riley.

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

We are constantly on lookout for new trustees. One of our Trustees, Hannah Williamson, has moved away from the area and has resigned from the committee. We welcome a new trustee, Horsington resident Leila Moss, on to the committee. Our Treasurer has been in the post for twelve years and will be retiring from the committee this year. The Chair has been in post for ten years. The Charities Commission prefer not to have officers in any one position for that length of time.

St Margaret's Hall continues to maintain a healthy financial position. We retain a sensible amount in reserve. Day to day classes will no longer keep our current account in surplus and we have to raise additional funds to remain in balance. Until the covid19 closure, the Hall had had an improved utilisation with an increase in the number of bookings and our operating deficit was a marked improvement on previous years. With the closure of the Hall, our earnings are zero. Fortunately, our Treasurer has negotiated all the government grants available. These sums will see us through the present crisis and will give us precious resources for the future. We hope that as the situation improves the bookings will revive and our position will rally. We last raised our charges in May 2018, the first rise for ten years, but still remain competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages.

All our actions to rectify the deformed floor appear to have had the desired effect and to date the floor has not warped this winter, the fourth winter free of distortion.

The website horsingtonvillagehall.co.uk continues to be edited by the Deputy Chair and provides a platform for information, feedback and occasional bookings, as well as Minutes of Parish Council meetings since 2013.

The fire risk assessment will be carried out prior to the reopening of the Hall and the fire extinguishers will be inspected by an outside company at their normal annual time in June.

SMM 21/2

Our triennial electrical inspection was carried out in April 2016. Our electrician, who carries out the inspection, informs us that the check is now required every five years instead of three. The inspection will be carried out in May 2021. 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 was last carried out in June 2017 and the appraisers were very happy with our standards. An inspection was due to be carried out in 2020. Unfortunately, our umbrella organisation did not have enough assessors, thus the inspection, which has been applied for, has been delayed until later in 2021.

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

7. Treasurers statement.

The financial year 2020/21 was not easy as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic resulting in a number of lockdowns in which the Village Hall was not permitted to be used. This resulted in an operating loss for the year of £2319.96.

However the availability of government grants to village halls means we have been able to secure £20,802.55 in funding which makes sure St Margaret's Hall remains viable for the foreseeable future. There is no recourse to the grants and is ours to use as we see fit.

Hopefully, with the Village Hall re-opened a degree of normality will return and bookings will pick up again.

8. Bookings report.

The Hall ran a few classes when Covid 19 restrictions allowed in 2020, these were basically the Art classes and Emma Riley's new yoga classes. Good news as the Pilates classes and Upholstery are no longer running.

The Hall held the Police and Crimes Commissioner election on 6 May 2021 and from the week commencing 17 May 2021 the Art groups and the Yoga classes are back in the hall, which is great. The Parish Council is also back to its once a month meeting and the WI will hopefully hold their monthly meetings soon. The Mother and Toddlers use the hall on an ad hoc basis.

There are 2 parties booked at the end of October.

Things are steadily getting back to a new normal.

9. Sports Report.

The South Cheriton United Football club now fields four mens teams and one junior team of Under 10's which will progress to Under 11's for the next season.

The club has no plans for increasing the number of junior teams, because of the difficulty of recruiting suitable trainers and the burden of the costs of FA training requirements and CRB and DBS checks.

At present there are no plans to resurrect a cricket team, although it is still a requirement for a cricket game to be played one a year to maintain the conditions of the lease.

The Club volunteers maintain the pitches and they are now in good condition.

The Club's financial situation has improved, but is still not healthy.

10. Resignation of Committee.

The Committee resigned.

The meeting closed at 1935.