

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

Saturday. 14 May 2022. 1000.

Acceptance of Accounts 2021/22. Previously circulated.

The accounts for the year 2021/22 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. All indicated the accounts were acceptable.

1. Present

Chris Bailward (Deputy Chair, Treasurer) Gareth Cherry, Maria Hawkins, Jacqueline Pyne, John Macdonald (Chair).

2. Apologies Vicky Franklin, Oliver Franklin, Emilie Gordon, Gillian Miles, Liela Moss.

3. Approval of Accounts 2021/22

Accounts approved. Proposed MH, Seconded GC.

4. Minutes of previous meeting on 28th May 2021.

Previously circulated. Minutes approved and signed.

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.

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 was subject to government Covid restrictions during the report period.

The date for reopening of the Hall without most restrictions was 24th February 2022. The Hall still posts notices which are deemed sensible by our oversight organisation ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). The trustees report that the Hall objectives have continued to be met.

The very popular art classes continue to be run on Thursdays and Fridays. A Yoga class is run under the auspices of South Cheriton resident Emma Riley.

The monthly meeting of the WI continued to be held in the hall, although I understand that the WI will cease to function in Horsington after a final meeting in April this year. The Parish Council continues to meet monthly in the hall.

We are constantly on lookout for new trustees. Our Treasurer had been in the post for twelve years and he retired from the office last year. The post was taken over during the report year by the Deputy Chair. The Chair has been in post for ten years. The Charities Commission good governance rules suggest that officers should not be 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 no longer keep our current account in surplus and we have to raise additional funds to remain in balance. With the relaxation of the Covid19 restrictions, the Hall has had an improved utilisation with an increase in the number of bookings and our operating deficit is a marked improvement on the previous two years. With the closure of the Hall, our earnings were zero. Fortunately, our Treasurer 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 last raised our charges in May 2018, the first rise for ten years, and deemed it sensible to increase the charges again this April in view of the rise in inflation. The fuel surcharge has risen to reflect the rise in the cost of oil, but we will consider reviewing that charge should the price fall again. Our charges still remain competitive with our immediate neighbours in the surrounding villages. Our bankers, HSBC, have introduced charges for our account. The committee felt that these charges were unreasonable and elected to change our bank. The process of a change to the Santander bank is in motion at this time.

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 annual fire risk assessment will be carried out in April and the fire extinguishers will be inspected by an outside company at their normal annual time in June.

Our quinquennial electrical inspection was carried out in May 2021. Our electrician, who carries out the survey stated the Inspection was satisfactory. There were minor discrepancies mainly due to the age of the building/wiring. Inevitably, an historical perspective must be placed on the inspection. There is nothing inherently unsafe and all the discrepancies the Hall can live with. Two emergency exit lights were replaced.

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 carried out in July 2021 and the appraisers were very happy with our standards.

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

SMM 22/6

7. Treasurers statement.

The Village Hall, as with most other businesses, has experienced a difficult year for generating income and without the Covid grants from local government we would have made a loss of about £2500. However our previous Treasurer successfully applied for grants from South Somerset District Council totalling £4045, which means that we have an operating profit for the year of £1582.40.

Profits brought forward from the previous year means that we currently have about £26,000 in our two bank accounts.

We are committed to spending £3588 on 100 upholstered metal chairs and we have agreed to decorate the exterior of the hall this summer.

8. Bookings report.

The Village Hall's bookings are back to normal, with children's parties and various village activities using the hall for their events.

Art and yoga classes continue and are well attended.

Unfortunately, the WI have had their last meeting. The demographic for the WI in this area has changed somewhat and the membership were increasingly elderly and they were unable to recruit new members. So the decision was made to close the branch.

The last meeting was held in April. JP pointed out that the Ladies of the former WI would continue to meet in a private capacity.

The Parish Council meet monthly.

The Hall is also used as a polling station for elections, one having just been held and they are a very good source of income. All in all it's been an improving year and lovely to get back to normal.

9. Sports Report.

TBN.

10. Resignation of Committee.

The Committee resigned.

The meeting closed at 1008.