

MINUTES OF THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2022

PRESENT: L White (Treasurer), A Daily (Secretary), S Dwyer, D Martin, M Stickland, S Woodford, and 10 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: received from P Crawford & C White

2. MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM

Minutes of the previous year's AGM held via Zoom on 9 March 2021 were displayed on the notice board at the hall and posted on the Parish website were taken as read. They were duly signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the absence of a Chairperson, Mike Stickland addressed the meeting.

Good evening and welcome to you all, thank you for coming out at this time, I'm glad to see the excellent response to our meeting notices.

At present, we do not have an elected chairman so, as a member of the committee, I am standing in for this evening's AGM.

I am delighted to report that, after the strangest 2 years since this hall was opened in 2005, we are finally returning not only to a level of "normality" but to an era of increased interest in the use of our superb facilities here at the hall.

For those of you who are new to the hall or who have not used the hall since COVID restrictions, I want to tell you a bit about what has been going on here during the lockdowns.

When we carried out our in-depth COVID risk assessment back in 2020, we discovered our heating and ventilation system did not meet the needs of full filtration of circulating air. To cut a long story short, we decided to upgrade the heating system, not only to meet today's requirements but also to make a move away from our fossil fuel boiler. If you look upward, you will see 8 black panels in the roof space. These are infra-red heaters which heat you, the users, and not the air around us. This is not only a faster form of heating but is also more environmentally friendly. We also have solar panels which give us a good income and later when technology allows, we will use batteries to store excess energy for our heaters.

Lockdown was a good time to carry out the work while the hall was not used as contractors were able to access the hall without disturbance to users.

We also decided to use the lockdown period to upgrade both our stage lighting and general lighting. 8 ceiling lights were replaced with 4 much more efficient ones which are controllable from the floor as well as LED wall lights with variable brightness and colours. Prior to this it involved climbing long ladders to reposition them, Paul Martin was the only person prepared to undertake this risk, but now we are no longer risking the health and

safety of our team. We are able to do this with the aid of government grants, so thank you to them.

Our classes are now filling up with a number of new ones, the full programme is advertised on our notice board, the website and in Village Voice. While evening slots are almost full, weekends are generally available, but book early to avoid disappointment. Don't forget that you can hold family parties here to save the carpets and decoration of your homes! We even had a family book the hall for Christmas Day last year. We have a lot of equipment in our store rooms. All the information you may need about us can be found on the excellent Thurlestone website.

Our concert programme has been restarted quietly. Tim Kliphuis returned to entertain us in January but with a lower turnout than usual due to post COVID recovery. The Committee will be putting on more events during the year and concerts in the autumn.

We are looking for new blood to join us on the team as the existing committee are running out of ideas and energy. If you know of anyone who would be interested in continuing to keep the hall going as successfully as it has been since 2005 there are expression of interest forms at the back of the hall and please think of any of your neighbours who might be interested.

Please come and ask us about this whilst you enjoy your drinks after this AGM.

My thanks to the committee who have pulled together in the last couple of years. Thank you also to Lynsey for setting up and running our Facebook page, we are moving into the modern era and you will see more of this.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.21

2021 has proved to be another challenging year for the Trustees. The strategic objective of being the focal point for recreation within the Parish continued to be hampered by the COVID pandemic. The Parish Hall was closed from January 1st and re-opened on May 17th 2021. Bookings were slow initially but by the beginning of September, the majority of the pre-pandemic classes had returned together with some new classes. However, South Hams District Council continued to offer grants to cover our loss of income. We came under the category of hospitality and leisure venues and on February 17th 2021, we received £7573 followed by £2096 on March 12th and £8000 on June 1st. In addition, we had a donation of £50 from Juliette Atkin and 2 small donations relating to the one-off use of the car park and the use of one of our wheelchairs.

The Solar Panels have continued to provide an excellent return on our initial investment back in 2011 and in 2021, we received a total of £2516.98 – the highest annual return that we have ever had. We just need the sun to keep shining.

The car parking permits for the holiday homes on Main Street generated a total of £643.00 – we now have 9 holiday homes plus the Friends of Thurlestone School pay an annual fee of £75 towards the cost of the upkeep of the car park. The holiday homes pay £65 per annum for their permit.

The Parish Hall is now nearly 17 years old and inevitably, some items are coming to the end of their lives and need to be replaced. Following on from last year when the lighting system was updated, the Maintenance Committee has again taken advantage of the lockdowns to update the heating system. A total of £8794.68 was spent installing infrared heaters in the

Main Hall. These have been very successful because we are no longer blowing air around the Main Hall which was not COVID friendly.

With regards to the utilities, I am on a monthly payment scheme for the electricity and telephone and internet. As ever, EDF collected far too much from us each month and in April, they reduced our monthly from £174 per month down to £1 per month and in September, we received £658.34 back in overpayment and they adjusted our monthly payment to £109 per month.

The main expenses on repairs included, hedge cutting, refreshing the yellow lines on the disabled parking, Dart Fire Protection who service the Fire Extinguishers, Fire Alarms, Emergency Lighting and Smoke Detectors on an annual basis.

We no longer have a full-time caretaker but in May, Devon Maids took over a weekly clean of the Hall. The front door operates on a remote locking device and users of the Hall have a code to use to gain access to the Hall. This saves the manual unlocking and locking that used to be done each day. My husband is also able to operate the heating system remotely.

The uncategorised expense relates to the Smartlock Annual Charge and the monthly Zoom subscription which we shared with Village Voice. This was cancelled in September

We are registered for Business rates with South Hams District Council which is why we have been eligible for the Grants given. As a charity, we are entitled to an 80% reduction with the other 20% being at their discretion. Of course, in 2021, COVID meant that the Council Tax was waived.

Thurlestone Parish Hall remains a huge asset to the residents of Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantam. Our hire rates are extremely competitive compared to other Parish/Village Halls in the area and I see no reason to increase them at this time. The whole Parish should be very proud of their Parish Hall. Let us hope that we will be able to get back to normal later in the year.

Finally, I would like to say a very big thank you to my Independent Examiner, Gavin Price.

Mike thanked Lisa and asked if there were any questions about the accounts.

- a) Brian Barker said he was surprised we only charged £65 per year for holiday homes, where they have previously holidayed, they'd been charged £20 for a parking permit by the cottage owners. So, if the owners in Thurlestone are doing the same the £65 is very low.

Lisa replied that she has a good relationship with the owners so at present wouldn't want to increase the rate.

- b) Paul Martin said that the Building Asset Value was very low at £360,000. The Building Asset Value is just the rebuilding cost, the hall is insured for £700,000, but this is coming up for renewal so may increase. It was suggested that if the insurance increased, we could put up car park charges. Lisa explained that as we operate as a trust there are constraints on how much profit we can make.

- c) Mike Hodges asked if the hall would be making a donation to the Ukraine crisis. Lisa explained that as a charity we are unable to donate to another charity, the WI which is folding are only able to donate their remaining funds to local charities, so regrettably the answer is no.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS,

As none of the officers are standing down, there is no election.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Mike Hodges asked if there are any plans for celebrating the Jubilee?
We are currently waiting to hear what the Parish Council are doing, but hope to hold a Family Fun Day on the Friday and a BYO on the Saturday evening when we will live stream the concert from the Palace on the big screen. Paul Martin will attend the council meeting to get some information.
- Sylvia Woodford thanked all the members of the public who attended and reminded everyone about the Form of Interest at the back of the hall.
- Mike Hodges said there are grants available for the installation of electric car chargers in the South Hams, there are currently only 4 rapid chargers available. The Hotel have 4 out of the 8 low chargers. Would the hall consider installing one as it would also be useful for those in the community who are unable to install one on their property. Members of the committee agreed this would be an excellent idea so Mike Hodges will pass on the details.

Mike thanked everyone for attending and to please have some refreshments while the committee will circulate amongst them in case there were any further questions.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm

Signed:

Dated: