

MINUTES OF THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2020 IN MAIN HALL

PRESENT: C White, L White (Treasurer), A Daily (Secretary), V Hodder, J Le Grice, P Macdonald, D Martin, M Stickland, S Woodford, and 3 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: received from P Crawford, S Dwyer, V Hodder, N Hurrell, J & P Stanley.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM

Minutes of the previous year's AGM held on 12 March 2019 had been on display on the Parish Hall noticeboard and on the Parish website and were taken as read. D Martin proposed they be accepted and were seconded by M Stickland. They were signed and dated.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

In the absence of a Chairmen, Chris White once again addressed the meeting.

Another solid financial year which Lisa will expand on later. We have lost a couple of classes but these have been replaced with new ones. Had successful events in the past year and we try hard to attract acts to please our audience. We continue to keep equipment up to date and there are more changes in the pipeline. Part of the hall was redecorated and the outside is looking tired so will be done next year, which will be costly. I would like to give thanks to all the committee for their hard work during the last year. Particular thanks to Alison for being a surrogate chairman as well as her secretarial duties. It would be nice to have a Chairperson, perhaps one of the newcomers to the parish will step forward. Also, Diane who is doing a great job as booking Secretary, Lisa who is doing a great job as Treasurer and Paul Martin who is doing a great job on maintenance. Brenda Jones has given up her caretaker duties due to family commitments, so I would like to thank her for a hassle free couple of years in keeping the hall clean and tidy. The committee are unaware of this, but Frith Chadwick will take over on her return from Spain for the interim which will give us time to arrange a full time replacement.

I hope you and the whole community will come and support us at our future events.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.18

The Parish Hall has had yet another very solid year. The Solar Panels that were installed towards the end of 2011 continue to represent a tremendous return on our investment bringing in a record total of £2444.45. This is our best year ever. The initial outlay of £12115.00 for the panels at the end of 2011 was paid off in less than 7 years and we are guaranteed to receive the payments for another 18 years – an excellent return at a time when interest rates have been very low.

My job as Treasurer continues to be made very much easier by my Solar Accounting Program, an accounting system that produces invoices, receipts, statements and all different kinds of reports. I am able to email out all my invoices to Hall users now saving both time and expenditure on postage and stationery, and invoices are nearly all paid through the banking system.

The Parish Hall is now nearly 15 years old and inevitably, some items are coming to the end of their lives and need to be replaced.

Our income in 2019 was slightly up on the previous year but our expenditure was down. However, we still made a surplus £5954.86 to add to our funds.

Donations in 2019 came from SHDC, £1000, and DCC, £1000. These were made towards the upgrade of the Yeo Room Audio Visual system – the total cost in 2018 for this was £3682.80. Juliette Atkin made her usual annual donation of £50. Ruth Downing gave us a generous donation of £200 for the use of our car park when her daughter got married in August and George Hubbard gave us £110. You may remember that when we were fund raising for the new Parish Hall all those years ago, we saved 20ps in Smartie packets. George continues this practice, leaves the 20ps in the Post Office and when there is a reasonable amount saved, the Post Office passes the money onto us.

The car parking permits were down 1 property in 2019. Trethule Cottage was having major works done and didn't require the permit. We have 7 holiday homes on the Main Street, and we also receive £75 each year from the Friends of Thurlestone School towards the cost of maintenance of the car park. We are increasing the annual charge for the holiday homes from £55 to £65 per annum from this year.

Our events income and expenditure were both down in 2019. We had an excellent Family Fun Evening which was thoroughly enjoyed by those attending giving us a profit of £265.17. The Autumn Fair raised £475.55, the Call my Bluff evening, which was great fun, raised £175 and the ever popular Tim Kliphuis Trio gave us a profit of £237.40. However, we do need you to support our events.

The Main Hall Commercial income comes from 2 lettings by Orchards who sell the teak garden furniture and this year, Kivells in Exeter hired the Hall for an auction of property. They were very complimentary about the Hall.

We had 3 elections in 2019 @ £208 per day – District Council & Parish Council Elections and European Elections in May and of course the General Election in December.

The Main Hall non-Parish income comes from South Devon AONB, Aune Conservation, a JD Andrews funeral and Jem Clear hired the Hall for a most interesting discussion on the English language.

The income from private parties continues to do well, Thurlestone Parish Hall being one of the preferred venues particularly for children's parties.

The expenditure on new equipment included improvements to the Kurling Equipment, a Thermostatic Kit, Banners, new cushions for the chairs, an expense shared with Thurlestone Bridge Club, a new clock for the Yeo Room, Light Bulbs, a new kettle and Ubiquiti Network. With regards to the utilities, I am on a monthly payment scheme for the electricity and telephone and internet.

We no longer have a full-time caretaker. 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. Brenda Jones has been our regular cleaner. She does 10 – 12 hours of cleaning a month and overall, we are saving money on caretaker duties. However, she has tendered her resignation for family reasons. Frith Chadwick will take over initially but we may be needing a new cleaner in the not too distant future. Chris is also able to operate the heating system remotely.

The Repairs bill is made up of Dart Fire Protection checking the fire extinguishers and fire alarm systems; Oil Burner Service for the boiler; Hedge Trimming; Lincat Boiler Service; repairs to the Floor Cleaner; but the biggest expense was £1574 for the interior decoration of the Hall.

The uncategorised expense relates to the Smartlock Annual Charge.

South Hams District Council are now automatically giving us the full 100% reduction on our Council Tax Bill without me having to fight for it. As a charity, we are entitled to an 80% reduction with the other 20% being at their discretion.

Thurlestone Parish Hall remains a huge asset to the residents of Thurlestone, West Buckland and Bantham. 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.

Finally, I would like to say a very big thank you to my Independent Examiner, Gavin Price. I would like to propose the adoption of these accounts. P Macdonald proposed them and they were seconded by S Woodford.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS,

Pat Macdonald proposed all of the officers should be elected on block which was seconded by Sylvia Woodford.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Paul Martin would like to commend Lisa for her efficiency in dealing with all financial issues.
- Pat Macdonald said Chris should receive thanks for all he does for the parish and for standing in as chairman, everyone agreed.

Chris thanked everyone who attended.

Meeting closed at 6.25pm

Signed:

Dated: