

MINUTES OF THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2019 IN MAIN HALL

PRESENT: C White, L White (Treasurer), A Daily (Secretary), J Booth, S Dwyer, V Hodder, J Le Grice, P Macdonald, D Martin, M Stickland, S Woodford, B Zaffiro and 8 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: received from P Crawford

2. MINUTES OF THE 2018 AGM

Minutes of the previous years AGM held on 23 April 2018 had been on display on the Parish Hall noticeboard and on the Parish website and were taken as read. M Stickland proposed they be accepted and all agreed this. 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 addressed the meeting.

I am very pleased the Hall has had another successful year, though money income has changed from when I was Chairmen as it used to be evenly balance between Hall users and events, now we make more from the regular users of the Hall. We would like to increase the income from events but the committee are finding it increasingly difficult to predict what people want. The demographic has changed as our regular supporters move away or are no longer with us; therefore we need to attract a new and younger audience to come along.

I am very pleased we are financially sound enough to be able to upgrade equipment as and when necessary, in this regard we are very grateful to Judy Pearce and Rufus Gilbert for their generous funding.

I would like to thank all the committee for without their enthusiasm the Hall would not run. I also thank those who have left us in the last year and welcome the new members and thank them for coming forward. If anyone else feels like volunteering or knows of anyone who would, they will be very welcome and would make life easier for the rest of the committee. We are particularly in need of a Chairman, as it looks us look more professional.

I would like to especially thank the following:

Alison Daily who has expanded her role as Secretary to that of more a PA role and keeps us organised in the absence of a Chairman.

I would also like to thank Paul Martin who does a huge amount of work and is doing a very good job, almost that of a caretaker's role thus saves us the cost of employing one.

Diane Martin who has taken on once again the role of booking Secretary, if anyone would like to take on that role they do not need to be on the committee and they can do it from home. Diane is happy to continue for the time being.

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 £2310.27 in 2018 compared with £2180.60 in 2017. The initial outlay for the panels was £12115.00. The capital outlay for the panels was paid off in less than 7 years and we are guaranteed to receive the payments for another 19 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 14 years old and inevitably, some items are coming to the end of their lives and need to be replaced.

Our income in 2018 was down on the previous year but our expenditure was up. However, we still made a surplus £1493.97 to add to our funds.

Donations in 2018 were only £56, £50 being from Juliette Atkin with what has become her annual donation to the Hall. However, this year, we have already received £1000 from South Hams District Council and £1000 for Devon County Council towards the upgrade of the Yeo Room AV system.

The car parking permits increased in 2018. We have 8 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.

Our events income and expenditure were both down in 2018. We had a very successful Wild Artichoke Pop-Up Restaurant in the Hall and we had a wonderful concert from Tim Able and his wife, a fun Ceilidh evening and an intriguing Murder Mystery Evening. Together with the Autumn Fair, the Family Fun Evening, the Cheese and Wine Lunch, an Open Gardens day in Thurlestone, we had a successful year. However, we do need you to support our events.

The income from private parties has increased hugely over previous years, Thurlestone Parish Hall being one of the preferred venues for kid's parties.

The main expenditure on new equipment was £3682.80 to upgrade the AV system in the Yeo Room but as I have already mentioned we have already received £2000 in donations this year. We needed to replace the smoke detectors and the emergency lights in 2018. The sky dish needed to be replaced and we bought new glassware and bowls for the kitchen, together with batteries, spare keys and fairy lights for the Xmas tree. 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 is our regular cleaner. She does 10 – 12 hours of cleaning a month and overall, we are saving money on caretaker duties. My husband is now 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 – hence the expenditure on new smoke alarms & emergency lights; Oil Burner Service for the boiler; Hedge Trimming; Pat testing on the all of the electrical items; repairs required in the Gents Loo, the annual inspection of the shutter in the kitchen together with a few smaller items.

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.

Proposed by D Martin, seconded by M Stickland

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS,

Unless anyone wishes to stand, everyone will remain as they are.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Paul Martin would like to thank Lisa for her efficiency in dealing with financial issues.
- Pat Macdonald thanked Chris for chairing the meeting.

- Chris informed everyone that Joan Mackenzie had sadly passed away. She was an amazing benefactor of the Hall. In the loft there are many photographs she took over the years and they are a wonderful record of the Parish. I would like to put on record all the work she has done over the years.

Chris thanked everyone who attended.

Meeting closed at 6.18pm

Signed:

Dated: