

MINUTES OF THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 23 APRIL 2018 IN MAIN HALL

PRESENT: N Irwin (Chairman), A Daily (Secretary), White (Treasurer), S Dwyer, J Le Grice, P MacDonald, A Martin, D Martin, M Stickland, C White and 4 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: received from P Crawford & B Zaffiro

2. MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

Minutes of the previous years AGM held on 15 May 2017 had been on display on the Parish Hall noticeboard and on the Parish website and were taken as read. Chairman proposed they be accepted and was agreed by all. The Chairman signed and dated the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Neill only had one thing to say and that was goodbye as he is stepping down from the position of Chairman after 6 years. It has been a real pleasure to have served as Chairman but it is time for new blood and new ideas. He said it is one of the easiest jobs on the committee as you only have to turn up for meetings and everyone else does the work. Anyone coming forward will have a dedicated and active committee behind them. One of the things he had been most impressed with was the extra help from people who are not on the committee but who help with things like setting up the chairs and stage and tidying up after events, He said that he thought that would be a problem when he took over but was pleasantly surprised.

We continue to offer a diverse range of events such as the high quality cabaret evening on Saturday through to our last event of the year, which will be a murder mystery, and we need this diversity to continue. Thank you to one and all and I look forward to attending future events in the Hall.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.17

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 total of £2180.60 in 2017, which is very similar to 2016. The initial outlay for the panels was £12115.00. Up to the end of 2017, we had received £12963.42 in feed-in-tariff. In other words, in a time when interest rates have been very low, we have more than paid off the capital spent in less than 7 years. However, the sun does need to keep shining for this kind of return to continue.

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. I wrote 1 cheque last year to the British Heart Foundation for the Defibrillator.

The Parish Hall is now nearly 13 years old and inevitably, some items are coming to the end of their lives and need to be replaced.

Our income in 2017 was slightly down on the previous year but our expenditure was considerably less. Hence, we have made a substantial surplus £8055.82 to add to our funds.

We continue to benefit from donations, which in 2017 totalled £3210.60:

1. In March 2017, South Hams District Council gave us £400 towards the cost of the new door locks installed in 2016. The total cost of the door locks was £594.60.
2. In May, Devon County Council gave us £1910.60 from their Tap Funding towards the cost of the new CCTV equipment installed in 2016. The total cost of the CCTV equipment was just under £2500.
3. In September 2017 and October 2017, we received grants of £500 from Devon County Council and £350 from South Hams District Council towards the cost of the Defibrillator against a total spend of

£1602.26 - £600 for the Defibrillator, £478. 80 for the Cabinet and £523.46 for the whole equipment to be installed.

4. Juliette Atkin gave us what has become her annual donation of £50.

The car parking permits increased in 2017. We now 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 both increased in 2017 and we had wonderful concerts from Jonathan Delbridge on Piano, Festive Flutes, and Tim Kliphuis brought the house down in November. Together with the Autumn Fair, the Family Fun Evening and the Cheese and Wine Lunch, we had a successful year. However, can I make a plea – please order your tickets well in advance so that we don't end up panicking as the date draws near.

The expenditure on new equipment includes £369.49 on the new Kurling equipment, which has been enjoyed by a number of organisations, the Defibrillator, and a new Hand Dryer for the Ladies. The Hand Dryer in the Gents inside loo had broken and needed to be replaced. The ladies had been moaning about their Hand Dryer and so we invested in a new hand dryer for the ladies and put the one from the ladies into the gent's loo – a successful outcome.

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.

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, Dishwasher repair, together with a few smaller items.

Each year, South Hams District Council send me a Council Tax Bill. As a charity, we are entitled to an 80% reduction with the other 20% being at their discretion. Every year, I have to apply for the extra 20% and have always been given it. I do have to send in our accounts for inspection, though, and did wonder if I might be on a "sticky wicket" this year with our substantial surplus. However, this year, we have been given the full 100% reduction – no questions asked.

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, which was seconded by Mike Stickland. Neill asked if everyone one was in favour and was carried by those present.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Neill standing down as Chairman, but Treasurer and Secretary will stand for the coming year, which was approved by the meeting. Neill will leave it to the committee to find his replacement but is happy to offer help and advice.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Anna Martin asked if we would be willing to allow Heartstart to do another Defibrillator demonstration towards the end of the year as last one so successful, agreed.

Anna Martin asked if the purpose was to make a profit or provide cheap entertainment for the Parish or a combination of the two. Neill said we are a none profit organisation but do need to make sure funds are adequate in case of major repairs, so inadvisable to make too any losses. The Hall is here for the benefit of the whole community. Acts are getting more expensive and audiences smaller, there is a need to attract younger people from Buckland and Bantham, if anyone has any suggestions the committee will take it on and make the necessary arrangements. Ticket prices are debated but there is a fine line between profit and loss.

Neill Irwin raised the need to look at the opportunity to purchase some or the entire garage site next door, large sums of money have been raised in the past and he would be happy to help with this.

Pat Macdonald thanked Neill for all his time and effort over the last few years, which all those present concurred with.

Neill thanked everyone who attended.

Meeting closed at 6.25

Signed:

Dated: