

MINUTES OF THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON FRIDAY 24 Feb 2023

PRESENT:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS L. White (Treasurer), A Daily (Vice Chairman), S. Dwyer, D. Martin, Gill Stone

**FREINDS OF THE PARISH HALL Dave Gibby, Viv Gibby, Mike Hodges, Sian Hodges, Jo May, Caro Mellor Matt Bright.**

9 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: received from C. White, Karen Barker, Lynsey Sizer, Anna Stern

2. MINUTES OF THE 2022 AGM

Minutes of the previous year's AGM held on 3rd March 2022 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

Good evening and welcome to you all, for those who don't know me I'm Alison Daily, vice chairman.

All the committee take serving the community very seriously so I would like to start by thanking all the officers and members including Sylvia Woodford, Alistair Durden and Mike Stickland who have left in the past year. A special thank you to Diane Martin who is stepping down from her role as booking clerk, thank you Diane for all your hard work in bringing so many events and activities to the hall over the past 10 years, I'm glad to say she will remain on the committee. A very big thank you must be given to Karen Barker who took over as Secretary and has been a tremendous asset and much more efficient than I ever was.

Also, thank you to the newly formed Friends of the Parish Hall, whose help has proved invaluable during the past year. The maintenance committee has been kept busy as usual keeping the hall fit for purpose and maintaining the building to its high standard. Thank you to all of you.

A special welcome is extended to Ingrid French who is taking over the role of booking clerk and also to Malcolm Breton who has kindly agreed to become our long-awaited Chairman, the committee are very much looking forward to working with you both.

We have found it increasingly difficult in recent years to know what events people want to attend, as the demographic is changing with regular supporters moving away or no longer with us, we realised the need to attract a new and younger audience. This was borne out by the questionnaire put together by Karen and sent out to all the community and to which we received a good response. I hope you have taken the time to look at the results online. The questionnaire showed the need to provide diversity and during the coming year we will be trialling different events as we'll holding our more usual ones. We are also raising our profile on Facebook with the help of Lynsey Sizer aided by Karen, in the hope of attracting a younger audience.

Last year we were proud to be part of the Jubilee weekend, when we hosted a very successful Family Fun evening and then live streamed the concert from the Palace. The ever-popular Open Gardens organised by Sue Dwyer was also held in June and was a very successful afternoon. Last month we hosted a Drop-in Session for not just users of the hall but other local groups, giving them the opportunity to showcase what they do, whilst not highly attended it was nonetheless a convivial evening and useful contacts were made.

This year will be an experimental one and plans so far are to show the award-winning Land of Five beaches, which will be interesting for those who haven't seen it. We're also trying out a games evening with traditional pub games such as darts, cards and dominoes as well as looking into the viability of a pool table and skittles. If successful this could prove a regular event. Once again, the Family Fun evening will be held in May as well as the live streaming of King Charles' coronation followed by a cheese and wine lunch.

It was also mentioned in the questionnaire that the hall was stark and unwelcoming, it is difficult to implement some of the suggestions owing to the multi-functional use of the hall but a sub-committee was set up to address the issue and in the coming months you should notice a few changes both inside and out which will hopefully dispel this impression, so watch this space.

We hope you and the community will support us in all our future endeavours.

Thank you

## 5. ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31,12,22

Treasurer's Report for the Parish Hall AGM – February 24th 2023

The Trustees are pleased to be able to report on a much better year of operation for the Parish Hall in 2022. The strategic objective of being the focal point for recreation within the Parish has been achieved through a diverse range of activities.

South Hams District Council continued to offer grants and in January 2022, we received a start-up grant of £2667 following the end of Covid. We came under the category of hospitality and leisure venues and in total, we have received grants totalling £31670 since the start of Covid. Needless to say, the Maintenance Committee have used the funds to update the facilities in the Hall. In 2022, we benefitted from the closure of 3 organisations in the Parish receiving £471.10 from the Horticultural Show; £200 from Thurlestone and West Buckland WI; and £500 from POTS (The Parish of Thurlestone Society). In addition, we had a donation of £50 from Juliette Atkin and 3 small donations relating to the one-off use of the car park and the use of one of our wheelchairs.

The car parking permits for the holiday homes on Main Street generated a total of £520 — we now have 8 holiday homes + 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.

Our events made a welcome return in 2022, and January brought Tim Kliphuis back for another very successful concert. We combined the Family Fun Evening with the Jubilee events at the beginning of June – an evening enjoyed by many locals but also many holidaymakers. The Jubilee concert on the Saturday evening was broadcast on the Parish Hall screen and then in June, we had a very successful Open Gardens event, again enjoyed by many locals but also many from outside the Parish. We now have a sum-up machine which enables people to pay by card. We do pay a small amount of commission on each transaction but the benefit for our users is huge.

The Solar Panels have continued to provide an excellent return on our initial investment back in 2011 and in 2022, we received a total of £2654.06 — the highest annual return that we have ever had. We just need the sun to keep shining.

Other income includes the Hall rental Income including Sentinel Health Care from Plymouth who pay a commercial rate for the use our Hall for meetings and South Hams District Council for Elections.

There is an amount of £5549.33 as the uncategorised income. In December 2021, we had a huge surge in electricity in the Hall which took out many circuits. Fortunately, the Bridge Club was in the Hall when it happened and I was able to get Chris on the case immediately. Western Power were out the next day to make everything safe. It turned out that it was their

cables at fault and they took responsibility for the repairs. This is their insurance payout which covered the costs incurred by the Parish Hall for the repairs.

On the expenditure side, the events expenditure related to the Tim Kliphuis concert, the Family Fun Evening and the Open Gardens.

The new equipment includes a new network turret camera £271.20; a Samsung Galaxy Tablet £161.27; Microsoft Office 2021 £113; and 2 new benches for the car park £840 which are now in situ. Unfortunately, the old benches were beyond repair.

Devon Maids undertake the weekly clean of the Hall.

With regard to the utilities, I am on a monthly payment scheme for the telephone and internet and electricity. We have been able to renegotiate a better monthly rate for the telephone and internet recently from £31.96 per month down to £21.16 per month although, I believe that there will be an automatic rise of 14% in March. I had to renegotiate the electricity costs last November and needless to say, there is a massive increase in the charges from £159 per month to £483 per month — 17.30p per kwh to 58.9 per kwh. I had previously been offered over 70p per kwh. We are currently receiving a subsidy from the Government and I am doing monthly meter readings to ensure that we are not charged for more than we are using.

With the introduction of the infrared heaters in the Main Hall we are using a lot less oil and I only needed to make 1 order of 500 litres last year.

The main expenses on repairs included £5549.23 for the repairs following the electricity surge in December 2021 which was covered by Western Power's insurance. Other significant expenditure included £243.97 for the Floor Cleaner Service; £638.40 for the rewiring of the car park lights; £243.18 to Dart Fire Protection for the servicing of the Fire Extinguishers and Smoke Detectors and £73.63 for the annual Alarm and Emergency Lights Service; £111 to Murch and Baker for the service of the Air Handling Unit; £720 to Start Point Flooring for the oiling of the floor in the Main Hall; £195 to Casa Terra for hedge cutting and weeding in the car park; and £149.91 for replacement defibrillator pads

The uncategorised expense relates to the Smartlock Annual Charge of £18.11

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. We are usually given full exemption from payment of Business rates. I await to hear the situation in 2023.

I have been Treasurer of the Parish Hall since 2011, and in that time, we have been able to keep the hire rates of the Hall the same. However, with the increase in the electricity costs, we have no option but to increase our hire rates. For the Main Hall, the local rate will increase from £7 per hour to £9 per hour from April 1st. The Yeo Room rate will increase from £5 per hour to £6 per hour. The rate for parties will increase from £10 per hour to £12 per hour and South Hams District Council will pay £240 for elections. I hope that our hirers will understand. Our hire rates will still be extremely competitive compared to other Parish/Village Halls in the area.

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

### **Questions asked about the accounts**

Brian Barker enquired whether the hire rate was different for locals and was assured they were.

Paul Martin asked if the increase rate for hiring the hall covered the rise in electricity cost. Lisa said we did not want to raise this too much as regular people hiring the hall may decide not to continue. However another small increase next year was probable.

### **6.ELECTION OF OFFICERS,**

Chairman Malcolm Breton had offered to be chairman and was welcomed

Bookings officer Ingrid French had offered to take this post and was welcomed. The Vice-chair thanked Diane Martin for her 10 years of service in this post

As none of the committee members were standing down there was no election.

### **7.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no questions

Paul Martin informed the meeting that Pat MacDonald had bought a new table tennis board for the Table Tennis Club to commemorate her husband Robin who had founded the club many years ago. The club was thriving with many new members.

Paul Martin also informed the meeting that the Maintenance Committee now had regular minuted meetings and had a long list of projects to complete.

Events for the Coronation weekend

Saturday The Church service would be streamed and following this there would be a wine and cheese party.

Sunday Street Party outside the shop like the Jubilee event

Monday Volunteers Day

The meeting closed at 6.30pm

Dated: 25 Feb 2023