

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2009 IN THE PARISH HALL**

**Present:** R Parkin (Chairman), C White (Deputy Chairman), P Stanley (Treasurer),  
S Barnes (Secretary) D Houghton, P Hurrell, J Le Grice, M Cater,  
P Crawford, K Livett, P Macdonald, L White  
+ 60 members of the public.

1. **Apologies**

J Barton, J Beven.

2. **Minutes of 2008 AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2008 having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated that this was the third year of full operation of the Parish Hall. He spoke of the early years as far back as 1970 when thoughts of a new Parish Hall began. There were many and various fundraising events throughout the Parish which resulted in the Trustees contributing £125,000 of funding. The business plan was very professional and the justification laid out clearly. Lottery funding was refused as the local inhabitants were not considered to be disadvantaged. Grants were received from DEFRA, South Hams District Council, and Devon County Council. The Parish Council acquired £100,000 loan from the Public Works Board to be repaid over the next 30 years by an additional payment on the Parish Precept. A construction committee was set up comprising professional people and chaired by David Houghton. The old hall was demolished in April 2005 and the new hall opened on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005. Three of the youngest children in the Parish took part in the Opening Ceremony. The first public concert in the new hall was by "Take Note". Since then the use of the hall has gone on from strength to strength and in 2008 the momentum has been maintained.

The most significant use of the hall is made by the school and we provided equipment for them. The Bridge groups are major users and have made a good contribution to the original funding. TEAMAKERS are continuing strongly as well as several exercise groups such as Tai Chi, Bowls, Keep Fit, Pilates and Ballet for the children. Unfortunately The Youth Group has ceased to be a user but we hope it will restart in the future. The W.I. meets once a month but members are of service in many other areas. There have also been many private functions, such as birthdays and weddings. (A list of hirers was shown on the screen).

The Chairman said that fundraising should be called Socialising as it had been a source of happiness within our community. Throughout the year funds have been raised for numerous charities such as NSPCC, Children in Zimbabwe, Friends of Thurlestone School (for their school rebuilding project) Aune Conservation, and Animal charities. Funds for continued maintenance and other expenses have been raised from events such as the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Cream Teas, Autumn Fair, etc. All these activities would not be possible without the continued support from the local people.

The Parish Hall Committee membership has changed in the past year. Shirley Barnes has taken over from Judith Le Grice as Secretary and Marilyn Cater has joined as representative for Bantham Sailing Club. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their help and support.

June Beven and John Beven continue to do an excellent job in the design and distribution of posters. They also set up a large display in Windeatts which brought the presence of the hall and its activities to a wider audience.

Ray Tavender continues to do an excellent job as caretaker.

The Maintenance Committee meets once a month and do sterling work making sure everything is ticking over and maintaining the quality and fabric of the hall.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The audited accounts were circulated to those present. The Treasurer apologised for a misprint on page 3 of the accounts. A correct page was available if required.

The Treasurer thanked Judith LeGrice for managing the hall bookings so well, and June Beven, the Assistant Treasurer, for invoicing and collection of funds. David Martin was thanked for taking on the examination of the Accounts, which were prepared in accordance with the requirements set out by the Charity Commissioners.

It has been an excellent year for the Parish Hall. Income amounted to £19,870 with a surplus of £7,882. This was mainly due to the efforts of so many people. There had been a legacy of £1,000.

Questions on the accounts were invited from the audience but there were none. Tom Trender proposed the acceptance of the Accounts and was seconded by Robin Macdonald.

## **6. Election of Officers**

Ron Parkin stepped down as Chairman.

Peter Hurrell took over the proceedings and thanked Ron on behalf of the Parish for his excellent Chairmanship throughout the last four years.

He proposed that Chris White be elected Chairman and this proposal was seconded by Pat Macdonald and carried unanimously.

There were no other nominations, therefore all other officers were elected to serve again.

Chris White said it was a great pleasure and honour to accept the position and paid tribute to Ron saying he would be a hard act to follow.

7. **Any Other Business**

Martin Beck (Friends of Thurlestone School) asked the Parish Hall Trustees to give consideration to lowering the hire charges for the school. The Chairman said this would need to be discussed in Committee.

Tom Trender raised the problem of car parking, where parents of the school children often leave their cars for long periods making it difficult for some hall users to find room to park. This subject has been tackled on several occasions and parents of older children are supposed to park elsewhere. Efforts will be made to improve the situation.

Jan Trender asked if arrangements could be made with the caretaker for him to put up and take down the tables for the W.I. meetings and Art Class. The Chairman will discuss this with Ray Tavender.

Lisa White asked those present for their e-mail addresses so that they can be informed of future events at the hall.

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.

Following the conclusion of the main meeting everyone was invited to have canapes and drinks, prepared and served by Joan Booth. David Houghton spoke warmly of Ron's excellent work and service to the community throughout the years and thanked Jo for the support she has given. He welcomed Chris as the new Chairman and was confident that Chris would continue the high standards we have all enjoyed in the Parish Hall. David proposed a toast to Ron and presented him with a lovely painting by Len Hubbard together with a signed card from members of the Parish Hall Committee.

Signed: .....  .....

Date: .....  .....