

MINUTES OF THE PARISH HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3 MAY 2016 IN MAIN HALL

PRESENT: N Irwin (Chairman), L White (Treasurer), A Daily (Secretary), S Dwyer, J Le Grice, K Livett, P MacDonald, A Martin, D Martin, M Stickland, C White and 6 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES: received from P Crawford, M Elliott, B Zaffiro and R Mackay.

2. MINUTES OF THE 2015 AGM

Minutes of the previous years AGM held on 21 April 2015 had been on display on the Parish hall noticeboard 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

The Chairman, Neill Irwin, thanked all his committee and officers as well all those who help with the preparing and clearing up of the hall before and after events, this was agreed by all those present He said that it was important to remember that the hall is here to serve the community and not a profit making enterprise.

At the moment most of the committee represent the various groups who use the Hall but he was concerned the committee should represent the community as a whole. He would welcome anyone who would like to serve. One member of the committee, Ron Parkin sadly passed away recently. He was a sterling member of the committee and was a pioneer in the building of the new Hall. We are really grateful for his service and he will be sorely missed.

Neill thanked Mike Stickland for standing in during his absence in Australia, though he kept up to date with matters by e-mail. The current users of the Hall are very diverse but he would like even more groups such as local Scouts to use it. He congratulated the authors of the new Thurlestone website and that the Hall is featured prominently. This is providing very useful publicity.

We try to keep the Hall up to date we now have superfast broadband and improved technology. The new disabled parking bay is now in place. This provides for a minimum of two cars and if people are sensible could accommodate up to four cars. A new memorial bench has been donated in memory of Jose Pedrick. This complements the existing benches, which are scheduled to be repainted.

Neill then showed slides of events from the previous two years and then outlined events for 2016. First event of the year was Grooveline which a huge success and up coming events include a cheese and wine party for the Queen's 90th birthday on 11 June and a new venture, Open Gardens on 19 June. We are pleased to be working with the Telephone Box Committee again on the Family Fun Day.

5. ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31.12.15

The Treasurer, Lisa White reported that the Parish Hall has had yet another very solid year. The Solar Panels that were installed in 2011 continue to represent a tremendous return on our investment bringing in a total of £2202.08, which is very similar to 2014. However, the sun does need to keep shining for this kind of return to continue.

The job of 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. Lisa is able to email out all 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 10 years old and inevitably, some items are coming to the end of their lives. Our income is very similar to 2014 but our expenditure has increased considerably because of the capital expenditure of £7821.60 on a new projector and click-share system which Neill is using this evening. We were fortunate to get a grant of £700 from South Hams District Council and a grant of £500 from Devon County Council towards this expenditure. The same also applied to our Fire Extinguishers, which needed to be replaced at a cost of £340.80. The car parking permits have increased in 2015. In addition to the 4 holiday homes on the Main Street, we now receive £75 each year from the Friends of Thurlestone School towards the cost of maintenance of the car park.

Bookings for weddings did better in 2015. We did investigate whether it would be worth applying for a wedding licence but the costs involved made it prohibitive.

Our events income and expenditure has remained steady and it is these events throughout the year that keep our finances healthy, but the Hall does rely on the support of parishioners for these. All of our events made a profit and the year concluded with a very successful 10th Anniversary Cheese and Wine Lunch.

The uncategorised income is represented by monies earned in colour printing the Village Voice Front Cover and monies taken by Teamakers although this is mainly offset by the uncategorised expenses incurred in the purchase of colour ink cartridges.

We were very pleased to receive a donation of £500 from the Estate of Jeanne Barton together with a donation of £50 from Juliette Atkin.

The Bridge Club have complained over the years that, when it is very cold outside, the heating system in the Main Hall is unable to cope. However, they are delighted with the Dyson Heaters and this winter, because of the mild temperatures, they have only been out a couple of times.

With regards to the utilities, we are on a monthly payment scheme for the electricity. However, they still don't seem to realise that we use less electricity in the summer. By the end of the winter, they are increasing our monthly payment but the time we get to August, they are giving us a rebate.

The major expenditure on the repairs side was the outside painting of the Hall at a cost £1160 and the oiling of the floor in the Main Hall by Rendles costing £597.42 and we also discovered a problem with CCTV camera which cost £244.80 to repair.

The 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 we 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. He is so impressed with our accounting system.

Martin Grose asked on what basis grants are given and Caretaker costs seem to have increased.

Lisa explained we have very kind local and district councils have grants you can apply for. Gave a gift of £250 when previous caretaker retired.

I would like to propose the adoption of these accounts.

Both Robin Macdonald and Anna Martin seconded this.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary proposed by Pat MacDonald seconded by Mike Stickland and Diane Martin agreed to stand again and were elected by the meeting.

Pat MacDonald wished to congratulate the officers for the way the hall is run and was agreed by the meeting.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No matters arising.

Meeting closed at 6.20

