

EASTERTON VILLAGE HALL
King's Road, Easterton. SN10 4PS
Registered Charity Number: 305510
Easterton Village Hall Annual General Meeting [AGM]: Tuesday 14th May 2024

MINUTES

Present:

Kieran Pierce (Chair), Raine Green (Vice Chair), Chris Saunders (Treasurer), Colin Ball (Vice Treasurer), David Green (Bookings Secretary), Jacquie Ball (Secretary), Geraldine Hamilton, Rebecca Harman, Dave Houghton, Heather Walker, Helen Hardman,

Judy Boyt, Nick Beard, Nick Fuller

	Item	Action
1	Welcome: Chair welcomed Trustees and Public members present and thanked them for their attendance.	Chair (KP)
2	Apologies: Anthony Snook	
3	Approval of minutes of AGM 2023: Approved; Proposed by DG, seconded by HW.	Chair (KP)
4.	Election of Officers: New post holders since 2023 AGM have been Jacquie Ball and Colin Ball. All Office holders present indicated their willingness to continue in post. Annual declaration form signed by those present.	Chair (KP)
5.	Chair's Report: Hello and welcome to all, it's great to be with you all now the sun is shining, and the summer months are on their way. Since the last AGM in May 2023, we have seen an increase in the number of floods even in Easterton; fortunately we have not been directly affected and have been able to offer some help to other villagers. Final closure of all remaining snags and building regs are now complete which draws the modernisation phase of the building to a close. We are now actively working on improving the access via new pathways and the installation of outside lighting. The work to move the fence, to make way for the new paths, has recently been completed, and we are grateful for the assistance of local labour and the parish council in completing this work. Future fundraising will be targeted at the eventual need to update / replace the halls private sewage arrangements. Later this year, we look forward to hosting the 2024 fete as usual, as well as continued regular users, such as the Sewing Bees, yoga and short mat bowls, to name a few. This last year has seen the arrival of some new faces, a vice treasurer- Colin Ball, and a new secretary - Jacquie Ball. We have been able to obtain a premises license allowing us to sell and serve alcohol without the need for TENS. We have started the modernisation of our IT, with the introduction of a proper online presence, including bookings and invoicing. It's too soon to tell, but the general feeling is this has simplified the process and allowed us to capture some new customers. We have also moved to a hosted email solution, provided free of charge by Microsoft, thanks to our charitable status. So a special thanks you to all the trustees, old and new, as without the support you provide, the hall in which we now hold this AGM, would not be possible. It's always such a pleasure to see the villages mucking in when needed, working alongside the trustees / Parish Council, to make events like the Coronation party, such a success. The hall and amenities it offers, would not be possible without the continued support and volunteer labour provided. We look forward to a fantastic summer and remainder of the year, and look forward to seeing you all again for next years AGM. In the meantime, if anyone would like to become more involved please speak to any of the trustees here tonight.	Chair (KP)
6	Treasurers Report: CS confirmed that accounts presented were as those presented at March's general VH committee meeting, but now checked and signed off by L Austin, Ret'd Accountant. It was agreed for L Austin to be asked to examine the accounts again for 2024. Proposed by CS, Seconded by KP.	Treasurer (CS)

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	Accounts proposed by KP; seconded by CB. Treasurer comments on accounts: - 2023 surplus of £1670, includes £750 Fete grant (yet to be spent), plus the one-off £960 car-parking income. - In real terms, the hall could therefore show a loss of £40 for the year, so 2024 commitment of over £300, for the new website and booking system, has to be actively encouraged to generate a return on that investment. - Correction - the forecast 5yr electrical inspection due this year was estimated at £600. This may or may not be correct as the cost in 2019 was £426	
7	Hall Hiring Secretary's Report: The regular bookings are ongoing. New hire is picking up. Not as yet able to determine/compare if bookings are up from previous years, as Covid period distorted figures. Positive feedback on the state of the hall and of on-line booking. A face-to-face support for those booking remains, such as when people want to see/access the space/facilities prior to their booking or event. Online bookings in terms of working together with bank and invoicing work ongoing. Further discussion in the group related to hall bookings – - KP updated that with the increase in our on-line presence, Google search engine <i>look ins</i> are increasing, but we do not as yet, in these early days, have the facility to correlate those to actual bookings that occur. - Discussion highlighted that the current promotion of the hall, does not as yet provide examples of the specific range of purpose and events that the hall space/outdoor area does, and can host. As part of this, Judy B reminded of opportunity for promotion in the Echoes (with advance notice to enable timely promotion/advertising). KP suggested the potential for future of enabling automatic notification to Judy for advertising of events and activities on in the hall. Nick B also reminded of the Parish Council website availability for promotions, noting that the Website was still in an update process presently. Nick F suggested including a notice board on the outside wall.	Hall Hiring Secretary (DG)
8	Future Plans KP updated that the area agreed last year was to fundraise towards the work needed towards the future updating of the hall areas sewage work. The environment consideration to determine any urgency of need was tested earlier this year and that was clear. So although not urgent, it is work that needs to be worked towards and monies raised. Quotes and grant considerations are still for future planning, and not materialised as yet. It was agreed by those present that future plans also include the ongoing discussions/planning/costing to improve the outdoor lighting and access, and assessment of the canopy structure over the front door.	Chair (KP)
9	AOB CS updated on plan to send an acknowledgement and well-being message and card to Dennis (a previous long-term Chair of this committee and member of the short-mat bowls group). KP offered to send one also, as Chair from the Committee, in acknowledgement and thanks of Dennis' years of support and input. Nick B, reminded/promoted the Quiz being held at the end of May, with profits going towards the village hall improvements.	
	AGM closed at 5:30pm	