

# HERSTMONCEUX VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

## Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at 7.30 pm on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**PRESENT** Chris Thompson (Chairman) Sheila Charlton (Hon. Secretary) Ian Stewart (Hon. Treasurer) Bryan Naish Joyce Burt Jo Angear Karen Hathaway Karena Mayhew Rhys Clatworthy

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr Malcolm Bradshaw.

**MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM HELD 8TH FEBRUARY 2016** The minutes having been circulated were accepted as a true record of that meeting. Proposed Joyce Burt and seconded Karen Hathaway and signed by the Chairman.

**MATTERS ARISING.** None

### **HON TREASURER'S REPORT:**

2016 was an interesting year! Although the accounts show a loss of £745.72 for the year it was not that bad.

The treasurer stated that he operate a "cash accounting" system for simplicity so that any bookings completed in 2016 that were not paid for until 2017 are not brought into account. If you were to add these items we would have a small profit but then historically would have had to deduct the January 2016 takings from 2015!

We were successful in obtaining grants of £7111 in 2016 which has helped us carry out essential maintenance to the main hall floor, outside painting and new curtains We have also replaced, in the last days of 2016, the dishwasher in the main kitchen. The cost at £959.00 was also instrumental in pushing us slightly into the red for the year

We have reviewed, with the help of our brokers and their contacts, the building and contents insurance. We are now insured for a sum in excess of £1,500,00. When the hall was built in 1999/2000 it cost around £600,000. The increased cost is frightening given the relatively short period.

We had an interesting altercation with The Performing Rights Society who made a complete mess of our renewal last year. After several calls and letters they eventually sorted themselves out and we were finally registered properly with the appropriate licences.

We did not undertake any fundraising in 2016 and this did not help our cash flow! This has been corrected in 2017 and we must continue to fundraise. It is important to show to grant makers that we are working to raise income ourselves other than via lettings.

As ever I must thank Andrew Phillips for auditing our accounts and Rhys Clatworthy, who frankly on the accounting and management side really does do all the hard work. The treasurer stated that without Rhys the hall would not function.

The treasurer mentioned that although the Hall management committee had revised its constitutional circumstances, it would be seeking Charitable Incorporated Organisation status, (CIO) once the access road had been brought to a conclusion.

### **BOOKING CLERK/CARETAKER'S REPORT**

2016 The number of users had dropped by 7.1% and our total value has increased by 1%.

2017 On January 1<sup>st</sup> our bookings were slightly down but over the last two months they have levelled out.

The private events have a great bearing on the number of non-parish members that attend regular events. The regular users bring in 43.33% of our total income and approximately 40.9% of that comes from our 5 main regulars. (Pre-School, HATS, Dance Mavericks, Extend and Short Mat Bowls) most of the regular users rely a great deal on their members coming from outside the Parish, without whom they would not survive.

Despite that, the Hall is still looking good in it's 18<sup>th</sup> year and we are continuously being praised for the cleanliness of the hall. However, we must not loose sight of wear and tare and the need to make replacements keeping the decoration in good order.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for the support that they have given me over the year.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

First of all thank you for coming tonight and supporting the Village Hall. It is important that both local and not so local people support the work that happens here. Many people just assume that the Hall runs and finances itself and it will always be there. Those that are more involved with the Hall know that this is far from the truth and that at times it can be a thankless, unrewarding job. So I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported the Hall in any way over the past year.

As many of you know I ended up in this position by serious his fault and her fault, by that I mean it was his fault and her fault that no one else wanted to take on this position and at the last AGM we did not elect a Chairman. At the first committee meeting my arm was put extremely forcefully behind my back. My chair was secured to the floor and I best not mention the actions of the two people either side of me. But anyway I am here.

In my opinion we have had a very successful year. Nothing outstanding but we have kept the Hall ticking over and I would say we are in better place than we were a year ago in a number of ways. The meetings over the past year have been extremely efficient, slightly shorter and very effective. Although as you all know, financially things will always be a little precarious.

I would just like to mention a few things that we have addressed or dealt with over the past year. I think the Hall continues to look very good. It is always clean and tidy. It always feels warm and inviting and it always smells clean. This is crucial if we are to continue to attract new business and keep the present hirers happy. Over the last year we have had the main hall floor done and the stage curtains renewed.

Both look brilliant. Our thanks to the Parish Council and Wealden District Council for the grants towards some of this. I would like to thank Rhys for his continued outstanding commitment towards keeping this hall running and to the standard it is at. Not many people know how many hours he puts in, I do, and it is

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far above what he is expected to do, so a huge thank you from everyone here and particularly from me for your help and support over the past year.

We held a hugely successful quiz in January at which we had a full turn-out. It is these events which we need to continue to run if we want to keep this hall to the standard we have. If anyone has any suggestions for fund raising, please let me know.

I suppose my failure or perhaps our failure this year is to say that progress on the lease for the access road has not moved anywhere. We have been totally in the hands of the Parish Council with this issue. I fully appreciate they have had some major issues in dealing with this but it should be recorded from the Hall point of view, that it has been an extremely long time without a resolution. However, I am pleased to report that at the last update things were making progress.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Sheila who as secretary has kept me in order and corrected me when maybe I have missed something. I would also like to say a very large thank to Ian who manages all the accounts and also supports all of us as a Trustee, friend and massive supporter of the Hall.

Finally my thanks go to all those who have served on the committee over the last year. I hope it hasn't been too much of a traumatic experience and if it has then you know where not to put your vote a few minutes further into this meeting.

The treasurer on behalf of the meeting thanked the Chairman for his help and guidance through the past year

#### **NOMINATIONS TO BE MEMBERS OF THE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The following were nominated and elected as shown:-

**Chairman:** Chris Thompson

**Hon.Treasurer.** Ian Stewart (Trustee)

**Hon.Secretary.** Sheila Charlton

**Committee members.** Karen Hathaway (Pre-School)      Karena Mayhew (W.I.)

Jo Angear      Joyce Burt

Bryan Naish (Trustee (Parish Council/Bingo))

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

The meeting closed at 7.53 pm