

TRUSTEES OF EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30PM IN EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr Tim Philpott (Chair)
Mr Simon Brookland-Beck (Treasurer)
Mrs Hayley Brookland-Beck
Mr Roy Piles
Mrs Helen Higgs
Mr Harry Kyte
Mr Colin Bell
Mrs Sue Parry (Hon Secretary)

Apology: Mr Paul Ainsworth

1 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and all Trustees introduced themselves indicating which organisation they represented.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 27 APRIL 2017

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 April 2016 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported as follows:

Firstly I'd like to pay tribute to two retiring Trustees – Alan Willson and Harry Kyte. Alan, as many of you know, was the treasurer and booking clerk and had looked after these roles for several years. Harry put a lot of work into some of the more technical and practical issues such as overseeing the new boiler installation. Both will be missed although we won't entirely lose Harry as he will still be around when needed as a Friend of the Hall.

We have also lost the PCC representative on our committee and so we've had a bit of a refresh of our personnel this year. We were very lucky to be able to recruit Hayley Brookland-Beck to handle bookings and her husband Simon who has taken over the accounts. I'd also like to Welcome Pat Younger who will be joining the committee as the WI representative and also Cathie Willis who will be a co-opted trustee.

In terms of bookings the last year went well with a slight increase on the previous year, a trend which seems to have continued into this year. Normally, this would have led to a slight surplus however we had to replace the heating system in the autumn at a cost of over £5,000. I am pleased to report that the bulk of the cost of this has already been recouped, thanks mainly to the following people:

- Firstly the Wheler Trust gave us a grant of £2,000
- Circo Rum Baba, who put on a great free show for the village last night, gave us part of their Arts Council Grant
- And who can forget the fine effort from Julia Bailey and the 'Calendar Girls' who created the calendar currently exciting gentlemen of a certain age all around the village
- Lastly, the Village Hall Committee organised a Race Night in March that was our most successful fund raiser ever

Although the expenditure was at the end of last year the extra income I've just mentioned was acquired after the beginning of this year and so won't be covered by the Treasurer's report.

The ongoing refurbishment of the hall has continued with Colin doing a sterling job on maintenance and who was especially useful when we needed emergency repairs following a break in. We don't have much of value here and so losses were minimal however we did lose some audio equipment and, most regrettably, the tea urn which I believe was moved here from the old village hall over the road. Following this, Harry has been working on a improved security system.

As you may have noticed, we've also just had the hall repainted and I hope you'll agree that it looks a lot brighter.

Work continues on the Village Hall website with a calendar function to be added soon

Fees are to continue at the current level for the time being. These are:

Villagers	£8.50 per hour
Outsiders	£10.00 per hour
All day parties:	£100+ (by negotiation)
Weddings:	£350

As I reported last year, we removed the snooker table from the end of the hall. Tentative plans are under way to install a stage and the committee would like to hear from any potential users who would like to be involved in activities like pantos, shows or plays etc.

This is my last year as Chair and I will be handing over to my successor at our next meeting in June.

I would like to thank the Trustees, the secretary and their partners and friends who devote a significant amount of their time to maintaining the hall and grounds and who have given me such excellent support in my tenure as Chairman.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer presented accounts for 2016 showing a significant increase in income over 2015 (£8,338 in 2016, £5,924 in 2015) although much of this was due to the Wheler Trust Grant of £2,000 and interest of £1,278 accruing from a five-year investment. However, expenses had doubled over the previous year because of the major expenditure of £5,428 for replacement of boilers. The overall year end position showed an excess of expenditure over income of approximately £2,000.

The Treasurer went on to report that although bookings in 2016 were only slightly up on 2015, the position in 2017 already looked positive with booking income to date of £1,656. He concluded his report by indicating that the Trust was looking to reposition funds currently held in Kent Reliance Building Society to secure the most advantageous interest rates.

5 OPEN FORUM

- **Proposed Staging** – Julia Bailey enquired the cost of the staging being considered by Trustees. The Chair replied that early indications gave an estimate of around £2,000 and that it was likely that much of that figure would be acquired through anonymous donations.
- **Maintenance Fund** – Peter Cheeseman referred to the funds set aside for maintenance work which had remained at a figure of £5,000 for many years and suggested that with the age of the Hall building Trustees might wish to consider increasing it. The Chair explained that in fact the amount available for maintenance was considerably higher than £5,000 as the Trust always tried to retain monetary assets of more than £15,000. Additionally, it was noted that the fabric of the building was in good condition and that the main item of maintenance concern, the boiler, had been recently replaced and was thought to be fit for purpose for around a further 15 years.

6 APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Current and new Trustees were noted as follows:

Parish Council	Mrs Helen Higgs
Short Mat Bowls Club	Mr Roy Piles
Parochial Church Council	Vacant
Gardening Club	Mr Paul Ainsworth
Painters Forstal with Selling WI	Mrs Pat Younger
Village representative	Mr Colin Bell
Village representative	Mr Tim Philpott
Co-opted Trustee	Mrs Cathie Willis

Hon Treasurer

Mr Simon Brookland-Beck

Bookings Clerk

Mrs Hayley Brookland-Beck

Hon Secretary

Mrs Sue Parry

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roy Piles gave a brief report on the Cherries Short Mat Bowls Club which although remaining in the East Kent League had withdrawn from the Swale League after 18 years owing to falling membership now numbering only 15. The Club continued to meet in the Hall on Friday afternoons and Friday evenings and would always be happy to welcome anyone interested in joining.

It was noted that the Gardening Club would be not be holding a garden safari this year.

As this was his last meeting in the Chair, Julia Bailey paid tribute to Tim Philpott for his enthusiasm and support for the Trust for the last three years.

7 NEXT TRUSTEES' MEETING

The next meeting of Trustees was noted as 6.30pm on Monday 5 June 2017.