

TRUSTEES OF EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2016 AT 7.30PM IN EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

Present: Mr Tim Philpott (Chair)
Mr Alan Willson (Treasurer)
Mr Roy Piles
Mrs Helen Higgs
Mr Harry Kyte
Mr Colin Bell
Mr Paul Ainsworth
Mrs Sue Parry

Apology: Mrs Marion Willson

1 CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

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

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 23 APRIL 2015

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23 April 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3 CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair reported as follows:

The two main changes that have taken place this year are the removal of the snooker table and the decision not to replace or repair the broken marquee.

The snooker table had hardly any use for a number of years and the Trustees decided to canvass opinion within the village to see if there was any likelihood of users being found locally. A questionnaire was delivered to every house in the village with the result that only one respondent said that he would like to use the table. Clearly this was not sufficient to demonstrate local demand and so the Trustees decided that the space could be put to better use and the table was removed by the original donor, the Harris Trust.

The marquee was damaged in high winds last year. Those of us who regularly were involved in its erection and dismantling were finding this a more and more onerous task. It occurred to us that the dimensions of the marquee are slightly less than those of the space freed up by the removal of the snooker table and so we felt that repairing or replacing the marquee would be likely to be unnecessary. It was also felt that those bookers who were most likely to need a marquee, wedding parties for instance, would tend to hire a larger marquee than the one that we could provide. A local marquee company bought the remains of the marquee from us and would offer

reasonable rates to locals who still wanted to use the hall and a marquee of a similar size to our old one.

The refurbishment of the hall continued with the exterior woodwork being repaired and repainted.

Primarily as a result of the Trustees volunteering their time and effort to do this we have saved a substantial amount of money on maintenance with the result that the Hall has made a slight profit this year. The Treasurer will go into more detail in his report.

We have also secured a grant from the Wheler Trust to go towards the repair and refurbishment of the hall. The Trustees will be discussing exactly what to spend this on at their next meeting; however a portion of it will be used for internal repainting.

We are also discussing whether it would be appropriate to install a stage in space vacated by the snooker table. I would be grateful to receive any comments villagers may have.

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

Villagers	£8.00 per hour
Outsiders	£10.00 per hour
All day parties:	£100
Weddings:	£350

We have now launched a website which has already resulted in a slight increase in bookings and also provides a forum for villagers and other users to leave feedback and suggestions regarding the hall.

We have also benefited from the demise of Painters Forstal village hall with the local WI and another user group relocating to our hall.

I would like to thank the Trustees, their partners and friends who devote a significant amount of their time to maintenance, gardening and cesspit monitoring although thankfully not now marquee erecting.

4 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Treasurer presented accounts for 2015 showing a disappointing year in terms of income with only a £526 excess over expenditure. This result could have been worse, had Trustees not been expedient in terms of outgoings. What had been encouraging was the interest on the £10,000 invested in National Savings which had recently been notified as amounting to £1,509 over the five year term. A future investment strategy would be discussed at the next Trustees' meeting although the outlook for interest currently was gloomy. Alan added that in addition to the National Savings holdings, the Trust held £7,578 in the Building Society and £5,548 in the bank account and that he would be pleased to provide full copies of the accounts by email on request. Bookings in 2016 were showing a significant increase, not least

because of interest generated through the Hall's new website and also because of take-up of bookings through the closure of the Painters Forstal hall.

In response to a question, Alan clarified the position regarding the £2,000 grant from the Wheeler Trust. Having received the grant into Hall funds in relation to the now defunct Rural Leaders' project, permission had recently been obtained from the Wheelers Trust to allocate the moneys towards Hall refurbishment. This would include the redecoration of the main Hall before the end of the year. Trustees would consider applying for further grant funding from the Wheeler Trust in future years.

Other issues raised included the £1,250 grant from the KCC towards upkeep of the Hall car park in relation to parents' use when delivering/collecting children from the school. Comments were made that parents were also using the Church car park extensively and it was suggested that the PCC may wish to make an approach to KCC for a similar arrangement. As regards insurance for bouncy castles at children's parties in the Hall, Alan confirmed that he made it perfectly clear to hirers that this was outside the Hall's responsibilities and should be arranged by hirers.

5 APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Current and new Trustees were noted as follows:

Parish Council	Mrs Helen Higgs
Short Mat Bowls Club	Mr Roy Piles
Neighbourhood Watch	Mr Alan Willson
Parochial Church Council	Vacant pending a replacement for Mrs Marion Willson (resigned)
Gardening Club	Mr Paul Ainsworth
Village representative	Mr Colin Bell
Village representative	Mr Tim Philpott
Co-opted Trustee	Mr Harry Kyte
Hon Treasurer	Mr Alan Willson
Hon Secretary	Mrs Sue Parry

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Roy Piles gave a brief report on the Cherries Short Mat Bowls Club which remained in the first division of the East Kent League for next season but unfortunately had dropped to the second division in the Swale League. Roy mentioned that numbers has fallen off and that the Club would welcome new members for the Friday afternoon and Friday evening sessions.

Paul Ainsworth reported that the Gardening Club would be holding a garden safari on Thursday 2 June at 6pm when three gardens would be open and the evening would conclude with wine and a meal in the Hall. It was also noted that the PCC had organised another garden safari on Saturday 18 June.

7 NEXT TRUSTEES' MEETING

The next meeting of Trustees was noted as 6.30pm on Monday 9 May 2016.