

# Kingston Village Hall {Reg Charity No 1197094}

## 3rd Annual General Meeting Under CIO status

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 8.00 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Trustees:** Paul Wright (PW) Chair, Mark Stalham (MS), Peter Stokes (PS), Suzy Stokes (SS), Pat Draper (PD), Sarah Wright (SW) Secretary, Femke Cole (FC), Suzannah Rihn (SR)

**Others:** Miki Ellar (representing PCC), Jill Coleman (Friend), Heather Ginn (Friend), Rachel Hooper, Ffanni Apperly, Martyn Apperly. PW welcomed all and invited the entire room to contribute to discussions. All are entitled to vote for new trustees but only trustees can vote on other matters.

**1. Apologies:** Chris Reid (CR) Treasurer.

**2. Minutes of the last AGM:** The Minutes of the meeting of were circulated. There were two main actions. CR and PW, with advice from ACRE, have updated the reserves policy to reflect future outgoings and all policies are now on the village website. SW, with the help of those present who used other halls, looked at the range of prices charged. The prices varied widely, as did the facilities on offer. Kingston seemed to have struck a balance within the mid-range. Prices were raised in April with Kingston residents at £6 per hour before 7pm and £8 after 7pm. Hirers from outside the village pay £11 per hour before 7pm and £14 after. The Minutes were approved, and the hard copy was signed.

**3. Ratification of existing committee members and election of new members:** The existing committee was proposed and elected unopposed, and this included CR who has indicated that he is willing to continue. We are delighted to welcome Suzannah Rihn as a trustee.

**4. Chairman's and Treasurer's and Secretary's reports:** A hard copy of the **Chairman's report** has been circulated. PW summarised the key points starting by thanking all the committee and friends for their hard work and efforts to keep the hall running efficiently. Thanking especially CR for keeping the accounts in good order, ongoing work with the CIO transfer and organising the pub. He thanked PS for countless jobs and for being in charge of the heating and Jill Coleman for volunteering to check that the hall is ready for use and for her donation of goods, Tony Smart was thanked for putting out the bins and cutting the grass and Miki and her rota of volunteers for the weekly coffee mornings. Much effort was put into reducing our running costs and overheads (see treasurer's report). We need to look critically at two of our major fundraising events, the BBQ and Christmas Fair. The more informal events such as pub night, music events and the art shows have been popular. (We return to fund raising at point 9 in the agenda)

A hard copy of **The Treasurer's report and accounts** has been circulated. CR noted that we are in a deficit position which needs to be rectified over time. Other than necessary fire safety and similar certification, our three biggest cost items are insurance, cleaning and fuel (electricity and oil). No action is suggested on the first for the moment, but the cleaning costs for inside the hall have been halved by the hard work of PS in finding new cleaners. Owing to having solar panels installed for the modest outlay of £500, we should see our fuel bill decrease once our panels connect to the grid. The film licence has not been renewed due to lack of use by hirers.

**Secretary's report** A hard copy of the paid lettings has been circulated. The spreadsheet shows all events in the village hall, the hours that it is used and events which are charged and those village events which are gratis. SW stressed that *gratis* events, such as art shows, pub and music nights made money from bar takings. We are pleased to see the return of karate which started up again in September.

#### **5. Fabric condition report and maintenance work needed in 2025**

The report was circulated and PS highlighted a few electrical problems: the extractor fans in two WCs do not work, the emergency light over the doorway to the small hall is inoperative and the attic light needs replacing. It was agreed to employ an electrician to sort out these problems. FC kindly offered us an attic light that was surplus to her requirements. The woodwork on the outside of the building is coming up for a repaint, but it was agreed to put this off until next year. PW brought up the question of weed control and said was unreasonable to expect one volunteer, i.e. Jill, to hand-pull weeds. The majority voted in favour of spraying the weeds by MS. The exception is the oil tank compound, with its septic tank, and SW and PW will trim this area. Jill Coleman said that the car park sign would be more visible if it faced in two directions. PS offered to put up a second sign if the PC would purchase it. ME to raise this with the PC.

#### **6. Strategy for increasing hall lettings**

The Hall is advertised on the ACRE Halls for Hire site and on the nationwide HallsHire site. These cost us nothing. PW had dropped flyers through the doors for most small businesses in the Toft, Hardwick and Bourn area, but there were no hires resulting from this effort and we lost a small amount of money from printing the leaflets. MS suggested having a banner, saying "HALL FOR HIRE" attached to the fence. SW to investigate cost and get back to the committee.

**7. Strategy for recruitment of new committee members and friends:** It is an ongoing challenge to find younger members of the village willing to join the committee. PW spoke to the participants of the quiz night, but the invitation has yet to bear results. The members with young children will speak to other parents about the BBQ and Father Christmas visit and try to get them involved with events such as these.

#### **8. Acre's Hallmarking scheme**

PW to investigate if this is worth the effort in terms of benefit to the VH.

#### **9. Fund raising events for 2025 (BBQ, art exhibition etc)**

PD reminded us of the importance of organising the dates of larger events and advertising early. Miki Ellar agreed and said that she would bring events to people's attention by noting them on a calendar in the Village Magazine.

**BBQ** It was decided to go ahead with a summer BBQ. MS said he would be available to cook on June 28<sup>th</sup>. **(Note: Due to key people not being available on that date it is now scheduled for July 5<sup>th</sup>)**. PS and PD agreed to co-ordinate the event and FC said that she would organise ticket sales. SS to ask Brett and Louise if they would agree to do salads and puddings for the event. PW to look into the most appropriate venue and report back to the committee.

**Christmas Fair** This has been a very successful fundraising event, but the organisation and the giving and buying of produce falls on the shoulders of the same small group of people. It was felt that a new format was needed. It was suggested that a mulled wine and mince pie event should be combined with the visit from Father Christmas with perhaps a cake stall. SR and FC suggested 20<sup>th</sup> December. SS to co-ordinate.

**Pub Night** MS offered to become bar steward to take the load off CR. MS will talk to CR. He will need support from committee members as well as others to help. MS suggested having the odd pop up pub night between the monthly events with perhaps a 'lite quiz' or people ordering their own

takeaways to be delivered at the same time. SW offered to help stocktake and order any supplies of beer, tonics and soft drinks.

**Other fund raising events.** The International Evening was always popular and PS suggested that people attending should bring food (own or ready meal) and we would all share the offerings that we brought. PS suggesting each person brought enough for two. Bangers and Mash was also popular and worth thinking about, but an organiser is needed. No one has yet volunteered to organise these events. Money would be made from the bar. The Folk Band on Pub Night was very popular last year and we thank Simon Draper for arranging for music for pub night on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Simon Draper is to be asked by SW whether he plans to hold an art exhibition. (Post AGM note: Simon has since confirmed this will be in August and Pat has volunteered to organise an International Evening later in the year).

**A.O.B.**

PS asked if the paperwork or email reports could be sent out ahead of the meeting in future. This was agreed to.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.