

STANDISH VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the AGM held at the Village Hall on 19th October 2017

- 1) Present: Nigel Mattfield (Chair); Keren Mattfield(Secretary); Gerald Hartley(Treasurer); Maree Stephens; Mike Stephens; Alison Widgery
- 2) Apologies; Pam Simonett(Lettings Secretary); John Simonett; Ian Richens; Stan Dicker.
- 3) Minutes of Previous AGM were approved and signed
- 4) Matters Arising; None not covered on Agenda
- 5) The Chairman reported that the income from lettings had continued to improve and along with the regular rent income from the offices downstairs has led to an improvement in the finances allowing us to continue our maintenance and improvements program. He thanked everyone who helped at the pub night and especially the music evening and those who supported those events. Further improvements to the website and the Facebook Page have resulted in increased traffic. In the next few months we face the challenge of installing new tenants in the offices downstairs and the Secretary will explain the problems this has met with. The Chairman stressed the importance of the rental income to the survival of the Village Hall since without it the finances would be at least £4000 per year in deficit and this could not be sustained. The Chairman thanked the Committee members for all their hard work in the past 12 months.
- 6) Secretary's Report. Secretary reported that the committee continued to be at full complement of members.. The necessary Charity Commission returns had been made. The Secretary continued to be the PCC representative and Stan Dicker remains the PC representative. The biggest challenge at the moment is in connection with the proposed new lease of the downstairs offices. A legal query has been raised by the PCC that they wish resolved before they will sign the sub-lease. This is proving difficult to resolve. It results from some correspondence in 2004 unearthed following the departure of Richard Amys which suggests that some principles of Trust Law require that the tenants of the offices need to comply with the purposes of the trust for the use of the Village Hall set out in the Lease and Trust Deed which embodies our constitution. We have enlisted the assistance of the Diocese in resolving this issue hoping that their legal advisors can clarify the matter. At present however we have reached an impasse as, before consenting to the sub lease, the Diocese Registrars have indicated that they wish us to give some undertakings which I cannot advise the Committee to give without the benefit of specialist advice. The Chair has impressed the need for the income from the offices to ensure the survival of the Village Hall so if this matter cannot be resolved the consequences will be dire. If a variation to the Trust Deed is required this could involve a very long delay which would also have severe financial repercussions. The Secretary is hopeful that the sublease can go ahead without too much more delay.
- 7) The Treasurer presented his report and account. See attached.
- 8) Lettings Secretary's Report First Aid classes continue to be our major source of Income. Regular weekly bookings include two Pilates sessions and one martial arts session. However these only bring in approximately £25 per week. The Gloucestershire Bat Group like using the Hall and hold several lecture meetings a year (and are key holders). There has been a smattering of children's parties and other one-off usage, including exam practice for 11+ children and a recording session for a folk trio from Horse Marling Lane. Of particular interest has been the fact that the hall has been used for three weddings this summer all of which have been very successful. Each one was a three day booking for setting up, holding the wedding and clearing up afterwards. Committee

may be interested to note that photographs of two of these weddings are now on the gallery of the website. (Click Gallery and look for weddings in the album list) The photographs mainly show the table layout and also a ceilidh taking place. Considering most usage of the hall is by non-Standish people it was good to see two of the weddings were for Standish Residents. The key box has proved to be very useful - a real time saver and an excellent addition. The Lettings Secretary's report also raised an issue about car parking which will be discussed at the committee meeting following the AGM

9) Social Secretary: The main event this year was the big band concert. This was a great success and thanks are due to those who helped clear up Jason's garden beforehand, and with tent erection duties Thanks also to Gerald for band liaison and son-in-law Chris for tree cutting services. The event received near unanimous approval - the only complaint being a request to avoid the singing of the national anthem at future events. (Committee guidance here would be appreciated). All proceeds went to the band which was great value for money. The formula is repeatable although committee may decide that holding it every two years might help to keep it fresh. We had one pub night which was well attended and another one would work this autumn. A suggested date is Friday 24th November for the committee to consider. Failing that we could try a December Christmas party instead.

10) Election of Committee for 2017/2018

The PCC had again nominated KYM and the PC, SD The other existing members confirmed their willingness to stand again. Nigel Mattfield, Maree and Mike Stephens, Pam and John Simonett, Gerald Hartley and Ian Richens were therefore to continue. Thanks were expressed to Den Smith who had sadly indicated his decision to retire as caretaker. The Committee has been very grateful to him for all his hard work over the years and will miss him greatly.

11) Date of next committee meeting Immediately following AGM

12) Meeting Closed 7.25pm