

Minutes for Wadenhoe Village Hall AGM. 11th July 2023 7pm

(serving the villages of Wadenhoe, Achurch, Lilford, Pilton, Stoke Doyle and Wigsthorpe)

1. Present: Committee members Nicola Guise (chair), Nick Hollands (vice chair), Catherine Burbage (treasurer), Susan Groom (secretary), Jan Lea, Sylvia Neal

Also present: Doug Northwood, Violet Mills, David Pinnington, Karen Pollock, Carolyn Corker, Anthony and Louanne Hotson, Stephen Hall, David Dixon, Gill and Steve Williams, Carew Trefgarne

Apologies: Justin Clarke, Jane Woodbridge, John Gent

Nicola (Chair) welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked attendees for their support.

2. Chair Report:

The purpose of this charity is to hold in trust Wadenhoe Recreational (known as Village) Hall ('Hall') for the use of the inhabitants of the area of benefit (Wadenhoe, Pilton, Stoke Doyle, Lilford, Wigsthorpe and Achurch) for forms of recreation and leisure time occupation to improve the conditions of life for the residents.

The year end for the Charity is 30 June each year to align with the AGM

All Trustees sign the Charity Commission Trustee Eligibility Declaration, which is repeated for all Trustees after each AGM election. All Trustees are given the link to the Charity Commission 'Welcome - You're a Charity Trustee' to ensure that everyone understands the roles and responsibilities of being a member of the Wadenhoe Village Hall Committee (and therefore a Trustee). The Committee considers how we exist for public benefit and refers to our governing document regularly.

Our main objective this year ending 30 June 2023 was to continue managing the Hall on a sound constitutional, financial and governance footing to ensure that we are providing benefit to local residents as set out by the Trust Deed. Fortunately, the regular income from the parking charges covers the ever-increasing running costs, particularly of electricity.

We now have a reasonable number of hirers, though mostly from outside the villages of benefit, booking the Hall for private events, but we still do not have any regular bookings. There has been much discussion about how we encourage more use of the Hall. A lot of time, effort and expense goes into keeping the Hall managed, maintained, legal, and clean. If the Hall is rarely used by local villagers then its future must be carefully considered (discussion to follow)

The Committee organised a wine tasting (Amps) in October and a Christmas party in December 2022, both of which were a great success. The latter was funded by the Village Hall monies, and many from Wadenhoe and the surrounding villages attended.

Some electrical work was carried out in the kitchen to allow the fridge to be turned off when not in use, and to fix the outside lighting. The main expense was for the car park to be levelled and resurfaced. The kitchen was reorganised and some new glassware purchased to make full sets.

All the Committee are volunteers and we are grateful for the enthusiasm and activity of all who stood for election. We would also like to thank previous committee members for their continued support and advice, particularly Gill Williams who stepped down from booking secretary this year, and to Jane Woodbridge who is also stepping down because of work commitments. Also to other members of the community who help in various ways, particularly Pete Prior.

3. Treasurers report

For the year July 2022 to June 2023 we had an expenditure of £ 12,571.47, with an income of £12,875.57 leaving a net income of £304.10.

We have two investment bonds maturing 2025 and 2028 respectively. This gives us total assets of £58,430.11. We keep £30,000 as a reserve fund (though held in our current account) for major expenditure (eg a new roof) which the hall will incur over time.

Our main areas of expenditure were for maintenance, utilities (particularly increases in electricity for heating) and the free Christmas party which we organised for the local community.

The major source of our income is car parking at £9,440.43, with £2,078 from hire.

Analysis of Bookings:

In this last year we had 23 paid for bookings. Of these 13 were from non-residents and 10 from residents. The most frequent (and only regular) booker is the Parish Council which pays £12 for a one hour booking quarterly. We had three weddings, but only one at the full rate as the other two were charged at resident day rates.

The most frequent type of event the hall is hired for is parties of some sort eg weddings and birthdays. Of business hirers, the hall has been used for dog first aid, a crafting day, an art class and two Zumba classes. The majority of bookings have been for full days.

The variable costs associated with hall bookings are cleaning and electricity for heating.

4. The meeting then moved to an open discussion about the future of the hall.

It was discussed at length that there have only been 23 bookings in the last twelve months and only 10 of those were by people living in the villages of benefit, and that there have been no regular bookings (other than the Parish Council) since Covid. After a question about the number of events organised by the committee, Nicola responded that the Christmas party will take place again because it was such a success last year (partly because it was free) but that it is not the committee's job to provide all the social events of the villages and that more committee members are needed to form an events sub committee to address this. Hopefully this will drum up more bookings. David Pinnington has offered his time with this.

Carolyn asked why the regular bookings have dried up – none have returned since Covid. Nicola reported that we have advertised in many local publications and online/Facebook, and we also personally recommend. Gill said the Brownies from Achurch may be interested and Nick is in discussion. David Pinnington said the Scouts have also asked for more information and charges etc.

It was also discussed that one or two hour bookings are not viable because of heating/electricity/cleaning costs (booking costs £12 per hour and the cleaning alone costs £20) so the booking rules are likely to be changed to half day minimum bookings. Weddings do cover their costs adequately because they usually book for two days. Stephen commented that the committee have done very well to be able to report a profit at all in these challenging times.

Stephen asked whether the car parking charges have been a significant help and Nicola reported that this income has kept the hall afloat although there is considerable admin involved. Catherine added that it costs roughly £800 per month to pay all utilities/maintenance/insurance etc so car park funds are vital without regular bookings. Karen asked about the heating costs and Nicola reported that a more modern heating system will be required in the future which should make it more cost effective.

There was discussion about whether to provide free or heavily subsidised events with money raised from the parking.

Gill asked whether the previously popular bingo afternoons might be brought back and the committee will look into that.

There was discussion about whether the village hall would be able to continue as it is now if more bookings aren't forthcoming and if it would eventually have to close. Anthony pointed out that there have always been peaks and troughs and he felt it is worth sticking with it for now in the hope that more people will get involved, especially as we are in a very sound financial position. It was agreed that with minor changes to the booking fees/hours and hopefully more committee members things may improve.

5. Election

As is normal practice, the current committee all stood down. Nicola is resigning as chairperson (as she has held the role for the max 3 year term) and she was thanked by Catherine and everyone present for the enormous amount of work she has put in during her time in this role.

Shaun Lynch has put himself forward as a new committee member, and Justin Clark had agreed to stand again.

	Proposed by	Seconded by
Nicola Guise	Catherine Burbage	Jan Lea
Catherine Burbage	Carew Trefgarne	Gill Williams
Jan Lea	Nicola Guise	Steve Williams
Nick Hollands	Doug Northwood	Susan Groom
Sylvia Neal	Carew Trefgarne	Nicola Guise
Susan Groom	Jan Lea	Carolyn Corker
Shaun Lynch	Nick Hollands	Doug Northwood
Justin Clarke	Catherine Burbage	Sylvia Neal

After the meeting it was agreed between the new committee that Nick Hollands will be the new Chair. The remaining positions will be agreed at the next committee meeting on 24th July 7pm in the Village Hall.