

UGHENDEN VALLEY VILLAGE HALL 2017 AGM
Held in the Small Hall 22nd January 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Michael Sole, gave a welcome to the AGM, which normally takes place in the December, but was delayed for several reasons into January.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from
Al and Christine Bowyer
Neil and Victoria Bellamy
Dylan Jones
Janet Idle

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Andrew Flint Proposed and Diana Gibbons Seconded the proposal that the 2016 AGM minutes were accepted as a true and fair record of that meeting. The motion was ~~earred~~ carried by a show of hands.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were 2 matters arising i.e. Item 4 plans to merge the two charities – this had now been completed and Dylan would elaborate in his Secretary's review; Item 6 plans to review the hiring charges structure – this had been completed and the outcome would be advised by Bob in his Treasurers review.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

See attached copy of the Chairman's Report, delivered by Michael Sole.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

This was presented by the Treasurer, Bob Hawkins.

1. In response to questions, Bob explained that the expenditure marked "Community Shop Support" represented costs such as legal fees and some plants, which would not have been incurred had the village shop not existed. These costs were not charged to the Community Shop.
2. It was noted as an error that the item "Improvements to Building, equipment" had been inserted twice – once with last year's figures and once with this year's. This did not detract from the accuracy of the accounts.
3. The accounts had been audited in detail by our auditor, Al Bowyer, to whom Bob gave thanks.
4. Bob also thanked the work of Roger Bryan, Deputy Treasurer, for all the help he had given.

The motion to accept the accounts as a true record was proposed by Derek Ransom and seconded by Don Brunton and carried by a show of hands.

The motion to reappoint Al Bowyer was proposed by Andrew Flint and seconded by Judy Biggs.

7. SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of Dylan, his report was read out by Tony Konieczny, who took on the role of Secretary for the evening. A copy is attached to these minutes.

1. Hilda Stearn asked who would approve the revised Constitution. Tony explained that it would not be done at this meeting as sufficient notice had not been provided, but that it would be given proper approval, possibly at an EGM, at some time in the future.

8. COMMITTEES AND TRUSTEES

Michael listed the Members of the Committee who were representatives of various organisations. The Constitution/Covenant stipulated up to nine members in this category:

Angus Idle	Residents' Association
Andrew Flint	Hughenden Allotment and Garden Association
Diana Gibbons	Valley Players, Hughenden
Judy Biggs	MS Society
Joan Steel	Valley Friends
Louise Jones	Community Shop
Neil Bellamy	Football Club
Jill Graves	Art Club

Michael introduced Kerry Franklin as member representing the Playground users' group, who would be fundraising to buy and maintain playground equipment now that the Parish Council had unilaterally determined to no longer support playgrounds.

These nine members were approved by a show of hands.

For the remaining seats on the committee – the five Public Members – there were the following candidates:

Michael Sole
Bob Hawkins
Christine Powell
Dylan Jones
Ian Stearn
Daryl Beckwith

There being more candidates than seats, an election was called, with Tony Konieczny acting as Returning Officer. 27 papers were returned and the following were elected:

Michael Sole
Bob Hawkins
Christine Powell
Dylan Jones
Daryl Beckwith

9. While the count was being performed, David Bailey, Guest Speaker and General Manager of the Hughenden Portfolio for the National Trust, gave an illuminating talk about his work and the role of the National Trust in the area.
10. The election results were declared by Tony Konieczny and, there being no other business, the meeting was closed at 9:00pm.
11. Any Other Business – there were no further questions from those present

Tony Konieczny
Deputising as Secretary

Chairperson's Report 2017

Another year, another Annual General Meeting. How time flies. This is now the 5th AGM of the Village Hall Committee that I have conducted, and I would like to record my sincere thanks to all committee members for their support during the past year. We are all volunteers, some more willing than others, and it is occasions such as this when their contribution should be recognised. So, thank you, to all the committee. As in most relationships, we certainly do not agree with each other all of the time, and there is always a healthy debate in the event of differing views, but just like partners in a marriage, we eventually reach a compromise with the interests of the hall and community being at the heart of our decision.

Firstly, I am pleased to report your village hall continues to be in a very healthy position both structurally and financially, and these are the two key responsibilities of the committee. You will be pleased to learn that demand for the hall continues to be high from both within the village and beyond, and we enjoy a fill-rate of between 80% to 90%, which compares very favourably with other local village halls. We have continued with our planned investment programme to upgrade the facilities in the halls to ensure we have a community venue that ranks among the best in the area. I shall give you more details of our investments later.

Secondly, tonight is the occasion when I can give my public thanks to a number of key people without whom the hall would certainly not be as successful as it is. So, to my fellow officers, Christine Powell our Bookings Secretary, Bob Hawkins our Treasurer, and Dylan Jones our Committee Secretary, thank you all for the many, many hours you contribute each and every week to the village hall. Also to Bev Beveridge our Projects Manager, and Gabriele McCarthy our cleaner, thank you both very much for your continued involvement. I know from the many comments received from both hall users and villagers, that we all appreciate the considerable time and effort you give to ensure all visitors enjoy a high-quality experience on each occasion they visit the hall.

Now to the subject of money, and whilst we shall hear later from Bob Hawkins, our treasurer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Al Bowyer and Victoria Bellamy, our dynamic fund-raising duo, for their tremendous work in devising and putting on some great events during the year. These events not only benefit the halls finances, but also have become major highlights in our village social calendar. Thank you, Victoria and Al. Our thanks also go to Diana Gibbons who organises our very popular and successful Christmas Bazaar, thank you, Diana.

Most of you are aware that in addition to the village hall, the committee also oversees the King George V playing field and the extensive land that surrounds it. Maintenance of the field is managed by Hughenden Valley Football Club and I would like to thank them through their chair, Neil Bellamy, for ensuring the field is maintained to a high standard for all users to enjoy. The land surrounding the hall, up and down to the neighbouring houses on 3 sides, is tended and maintained by our very own Conservation Group. This group comprises a small

but dedicated number of volunteers who meet regularly during the year to undertake the necessary cutting and pruning of the grass, shrubs and trees, and tonight I want to publicly convey the committees' appreciation for the fantastic work they do under the guidance of John Moorby. Thank you, John and the conservation team.

In common with most small organisations, we must be careful about spending money and we devote a considerable amount of time in committee, discussing and debating proposed expenditure projects, which is both a healthy and necessary part of the decision-making process. Expenditure during the year was almost £25k, which is the most we have spent for some time. During the year, we completed the installation of a new speaker system, and have partially completed the installation of special acoustic panels, both to significantly improve the sound quality within the large hall. As you can see, we have almost finished the replacing all of the internal doors, and will soon take possession of an external CCTV system. The latter will give added security to all users of the halls, the children's play area and the car park. Plans for 2018 include replacing the external doors and refurbishing the toilet facilities.

We continue to ensure there is a contingency fund of around £30k in the bank, which is approximately the average annual cost of running the hall, and this is available for use in the event of the hall suffering a major incident that requires the immediate availability of cash to resolve. Overall, as we will be hearing later from, Bob Hawkins, our financial position is healthy.

I would now like to touch upon a few challenging issues that we are presently dealing with. Firstly, the community shop which reopened almost 12 months ago. Unfortunately, we have yet to reach agreement with the shop committee, on the terms of their lease, even though our original proposals were issued some 3 months in advance of their reopening. Whilst this is very frustrating for both parties, I am confident a solution can be achieved very soon.

Secondly, as some of you will know, the parish council decided to cease funding the repair and replacement of the equipment in our children's playground. This was a reversal of their policy that had existed for almost 20 years. Consequently, some of the play equipment that had been removed by the parish council due to it being potentially dangerous, has not been replaced. It now falls upon the village hall to fund future repairs and replacements and we have therefore established a sub-committee comprising a small group of local parents, to devise and launch some fund-raising events to raise funds for buying new playground equipment.

Thirdly, the community all-weather sports facility that has been proposed by a group of village residents who are known as the Hughenden Valley Sports Initiative Group. Their proposal has been considered by the trustees of the village hall to determine any conflict with the covenant and I would like to read out the trustees' response to the proposal:

Following detailed consideration of the proposal by a group of Hughenden Valley residents ("the sports group") for the installation of an all-weather sports facility on the King George V playing field, the Village Hall trustees can find no reason why consultation with

Hughenden Valley residents and Wycombe District Council should not now commence. The trustees are mindful of the potential impact to both village hall users and neighbouring residents, but on balance, believe the benefit of the proposed scheme for the entire community reflects the ethos of the field covenant.

Before concluding, I would just like to mention and thank everybody involved with the Valley Players, our village drama group. Their wonderful production in December of Cinderella has been the talk of the village ever since, and I know they are planning two major productions during 2018, so please keep an eye out for the dates.

Some of you may have noticed the new external defibrillator on the wall by the hall entrance and I would like to publicly thank Elaine Smith for her kind generosity in funding this vital piece of equipment that can now be accessed by anybody who needs it. Thank you, Elaine.

So, in conclusion, our hall is still the envy of many of the surrounding villages, and this has only been achieved by the tremendous efforts of the small number of volunteers who give so much of their time and resource, so a big thank you to each and every one of those individuals. I look forward to joining you for the refreshments at the end of the meeting.

And now I invite Bob Hawkins, our treasurer to give us his review.