

PRISTON VILLAGE HALL
Draft Minutes of the A.G.M
Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7.30pm

Committee present:

David Hassard: Chair	Peter Brookes: Treasurer
Richard Bottle	Farah Downing
Sue Copperman	Jane Harvey
George Haines	James Franklin-Adams
Maggie Rideout	Apologies: Lissa Carter.

Attending villagers:

Simon Barnes	John Wilkinson
Lucy Barnes	Tony Baldaro
Martin Blewett	Indy Downing
Guy Davies	Philippe Chapel

1. Minutes from the last AGM and Matters Arising

There were no issues relating to last year's minutes.

2. Chairman's Report

David welcomed the villagers to the Village Hall AGM and thanked them for their support.

Hall Use

The hall has been extensively used over the last year with the cafe a central part of village life on Saturday mornings. This year we have used the projector to show international Rugby Union matches and have had regular fund raising and entertainment activities.

The demand for private parties both from villagers and people from outside the village has been pretty strong and the letting income is up 10% on 2023. I would like to thank Maggie for arranging the bookings and the administration involved.

Hall maintenance and improvements

The hall's basic fabric remains in good order and some investigations have taken place to address condensation. No firm plan has been identified that can be put in place economically and within the planning restraints of a listed building. We had a working party in the Spring to freshen up the paintwork in the hall. This year it is hoped to add to the facilities offered to users of the hall with a new audio system and a working hearing loop. A lot of the investigative work on these projects was done in 2024.

Finance

The Treasurer has the details but in summary the hall showed a small profit for the year and capital has now been invested in a savings account that will generate a reasonable income for the hall.

Administration

There were no changes during 2024 but I am stepping down as Chairman and leaving the committee. Guy Davies has agreed to join the committee and to be the Parish Council's representative for the Village Hall.

Plans for 2025

More of the same mix of village events and private hires with one of the main responsibilities of the committee being to run or support a number of the village events.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for all their work during the year. It is possibly not always appreciated how much goes on behind the scenes. Long may the hall be well looked after and well used by the village. We are lucky to have it here in the centre of the village and I would encourage further investment of at least some of the funds that we hold to improve its fabric, fixtures and fittings.

3. Treasurer's Report

In 2024 total receipts of £6361 exceeded total payments of £5362 thanks to hire fees and profits from events. This surplus will pay for the required five yearly EICR Test done at the end of the year. Hopefully further detailed electrical work will not be needed again until 2029. There are a few remaining issues for which quotes have been requested.

After David's 6-8 months work the hall's savings account has finally been set up and £30,000 will be transferred from the current account. David asked for the minutes to thank the local solicitor Becky Martin for her very generous help in facilitating the setting-up of the account.

The 2024 accounts were signed off by Peter and David but as the insurers require an independent assessor Jocelyn Nicholls will also be asked to approve them. Peter confirmed to James that the hall heater meters were covering the halls heating costs but there was other electricity usage such as kitchen heating and cooking, hot water and lighting paid for by the hall.

4. Election of Officers

As David is standing down as Chairman and leaving the committee the meeting needed to elect a new Chairman.

David proposed and Richard seconded Peter as Chairman.

David proposed and Peter seconded James as Treasurer.

Lissa remains as Deputy Chairman and Maggie as Booking Manager.

Guy Davies and Fiona Hassard have agreed to become committee members and all the changes were approved and welcomed by all the committee.

Peter agreed to submit the new committee member's details to the Charity Commission.

Points from the floor

John Wilkinson confirmed that there would be a national celebration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 on Thursday the 8th May. He would like the Village Hall to consider supporting the lighting of a beacon at 9.30pm by arranging a complementary event in the hall. Details of national plans will be available on VEDay+80.org.uk.

Martin Blewett added that he really appreciated the close relationship between the Church and the Village Hall. The church and hall work together for weddings, christenings, wakes, fund-raising events and festival performances.