

Minutes of 45th Annual General Meeting

448. The 45th Annual General Meeting of East Stour Village Hall was held on Thursday 16th April 2015.

449. Present: Mr Little (Chairman), Mr Robinson (Treasurer), Miss Robinson (Secretary), Messrs Dowding and Gilding, Mesdames Bates, Morphew, Robinson, Rymill and Squire, Dr Austin-Jones, Trustees Mr Salisbury, Mr Perrin, Mrs Dowding and Miss Windross, and 12 members of the public. .

450. Apologies were received from Mr Fanner, Mrs Isaacs, Miss O'Sullivan and Miss Brentnall.

451. The minutes of the 44th AGM held on 7th April 2014, having been circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

452. Election of the Committee

The elected members of the committee are Messrs Dowding, Gilding, Little and Robinson, Mrs Rymill and Miss Robinson. Mr Robinson and Mr Gilding are not seeking re-election. The remaining elected members confirmed their willingness to be re-elected.

Mr Little asked for volunteers.

It was proposed by Mr Robinson, Seconded by Mr Jones and agreed that Mrs Rosanne Jacques should be elected to the Committee.

It was proposed by Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Dowding and agreed that Mr Tony Jones should be elected to the Committee.

453. Chairman's Report

Mr Little reported that this had been a difficult year, with the decorating being done and a lack of support from the village. Inspections had been carried out of the flat roof, the structure and the electrics – all of which are sound. The lead flashing has been replaced. The Committee had agreed a sum of £3000 for the refurbishment, which has been increased by two donations of £250, from the Village Action Plan and the Stours Village Market. The refurbishment plan is to do the Games Room, the hallway/corridor and the Bar Room. Funds will not allow any changes to the heating.

A Garden Party last summer by kind permission of Mr Jukes raised £171 and a donation of £100 was made by Mrs Ewen from the sale of handmade cards.

Two fundraising events are planned – a table-top sale on Saturday 25th April and a musical evening in October with the Howden-Jones musical duo. Volunteers will be needed to help with this event. Mr Little thanked the officers for their work – Mr Robinson as Treasurer, Mrs Robinson as hiring secretary, Miss Robinson as secretary, Mr Dowding for the maintenance, the First Class Coffee group, Mr. Brown for his help with relaying the patio and power hosing the front, and the refurbishment group. Mr Little then made a presentation of gift vouchers to Mr Robinson, on behalf of the Committee and Trustees, to mark his retirement after 42 years as Treasurer.

454. Treasurer's Report

Mr Robinson presented the income and expenditure account for the year 2014/15. Income from hiring is £5707.50 which is £140 up on the previous year. The Hall was revalued, which cost £144 and has resulted in an increase to the insurance, which is now £975. The changeover of cleaner in September from Mrs Robinson to Mrs Corina Berry has resulted in higher charges for cleaning. The overheads are fairly constant.

Mr Salisbury queried whether the hiring fees should be increased, as the last increase was on 1st September 2010. Mr Little responded that the review of fees was delayed until more refurbishment had been done.

It was proposed by Mrs Dowding, seconded by Mr Jones and agreed that the accounts be adopted.

455. Hiring Secretary's Report

Mrs Robinson reported that the weekly and monthly hirings continue as usual – keep fit, Jazzercise, Bridge, Post Office, First Class Coffee, Yoga and badminton, Whist drive, W.I., Stamp Club and Garden Club. The BT Group has now closed due to low numbers. In addition there are two Garden Club shows, two garden furniture sales, WI Group meetings, elections as well as parties and weddings. Bookings for the coming year are at about the same level. Mrs Robinson thanked Mr Dowding for his help in fixing things, and Michael and Pauline Robinson for their help with cleaning.

Mrs Robinson said that she had been disappointed to hear the rumours that were circulating regarding the state of the Hall after a recent party – none of which were true.

Mr Perrin thanked Mrs Robinson for her work.

456. Any Other Business

i) Mr Salisbury congratulated the Committee on the appearance of the Hall, and thanked them for their work throughout the year.

ii) Mrs Dowding reported that the Village Hall at Motcombe would cost £15 per hour, plus £15 for use of the kitchen and £15 for use of the bar licence.

iii) Mr Little reiterated that help is needed with many different tasks – researching grants, Health & Safety, investigating hiring fees at other venues, publicity/promotion, investigating heating, signage and deep cleaning. Volunteers for any of these jobs would be welcome.

iv) Mr Gilding gave more detailed information regarding heating – wall mounted convector heaters in the Games Room and radiant heaters in the corridors. The units are not expensive but the wiring and installation is. Grants are available but may be linked to eco-friendly works such as insulation or cladding. The cost for the whole Hall would be in the region of £11500 plus VAT.

v) Mr Rymill asked about window-cleaning. Mrs Robinson said she had cleaned the lower windows when necessary but could not answer for the new cleaner. Mr Dowding said that in the main hall the secondary glazing units had to be removed to reach the windows, which was difficult using ladders. Mr Davis had offered the use of a cherry picker when decorating the main hall, so this could be used to help clean the windows.

vi) Mr Rymill asked whether solar panels had been considered. Mr Gilding said it would involve a huge outlay of money and they are not totally efficient.

vii) Mrs Harrison thanked Mrs Robinson for continuing to arrange and run the monthly Whist Drives at the Hall, and urged other people to come.

457. There being no further business, Mr Little thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.