

MINUTES – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ENGLISH BICKNOR VILLAGE HALL and BAR

The Annual General Meeting of E.B. Village Hall & Bar was held at the Hall on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.30pm

1 PRESENT:

Mr. P Gwilliam (Chairman), Mrs. A Watkins (Vice Chair), Mrs. S Shelbourn (VH Treasurer), Mr. R Waldron (Treasurer – BAR), Mr. J Entwistle (Secretary), Mrs. J Maxfield (Functions), Mrs. D Gwilliam (FOSM/Facilities), Mrs. R Lacey (History Group), Miss M Fox (Tuesday Lunch), Mrs. L Thexton (Gardening), Mr. Peter Warden (PC), Mrs. Sally Longley (WI).  
Mr. & Mrs. W Harris, Mr. David Gunter, Mr. Marcus Sutton.

2.APOLOGIES:

Mr. K Froud (Table tennis), Mrs. J McHattie (PCC), Mrs. J Bradley (Bookings Secretary).

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

There were outstanding issues from last year's AGM.

- a) Put new Governance Document on the Village website. Carried out action closed.
- b) Proposal for a Peoples Orchard to be created at the bottom of the playing field. In progress action closed.
- c) Purchase of new gazebos for the fete and other functions. FOSM have bought more gazebos and the VH has bought a large one. Action closed.
- d) Playing field athletics track and or tennis court. The charitable objectives of the VH does not include the provision of sporting facilities. The Charity Commission would have to agree to a change in our charitable objectives. A considerable amount of funding would be needed to build and maintain sports facilities. The Managing Trustees therefore decided that this is not a viable proposal.

As these actions are now the 2023 minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Mrs. S Longley (WI) and seconded by Mr. P Warden (PC).

4.MATERS ARISING

**Confirmation of Permanent/Holding Trustees.** After the 2023 AGM Mr R Jago expressed a wish to become a Permanent/Holding Trustee as allowed in the 1934 Conveyance. Mr. Jago needs to be appointed. Proposed by Mrs. B Lacy (History Club) and seconded by Mrs. S Shelbourne (VH Treasurer). The Permanent/Holding Trustees are, for confirmation, Mr. P Gwilliam, Mr. R Jago, Mr. N Watkins, Mr. B Haille and Mr. D Gunter.

## 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Phil Gwilliam (Chairman) thanked all the committee for their ongoing support and continued hard work throughout the year.

The Peoples Orchard is progressing well with now four trees planted. Three holes are dug and available to plant the three trees donated by the WI. More trees will be planted in March 25. A further 10 trees have been pledged.

The playing field is in good condition as it is cut every week. The mild weather has caused the grass to grow more in recent months. The cost of mowing is £2,300 per year.

The play area is nearing completion. The new cradle swing can be used by disabled children. The final piece of apparatus, a climbing frame, will be erected before Christmas at a cost of £9,500 inc VAT.

A new heating control system, HIVE, has been installed in the hall so the temperature can be controlled remotely using a smart phone. Hopefully this will help in reducing fuel costs.

The VH has been well used in the last year with the hall having 5 wedding receptions. Mr. M. Sutton (Village Rep) mentioned that there had been camping on the playing field this year and was it to be regular. The camping this year was only for guests at a wedding and that the trustees were not considering advertising the playing field as a regular camping site. Mr. Sutton stated that camping 2-3 times per year would not be an issue for the residents.

Mr. P Warden (PC) asked if the Cheltenham Town Youth Football were proposing to continue using the playing field for training and matches. This was confirmed by the Chairman. The income from the footballers, for the use of the changing rooms, was last season £450.

The Mr. J Entwistle (Secretary) mentioned that the football posts, which were obtained for use by local children, appear to be broken. Mrs. S Shelbourne (Treasurer VH) said they were possibly going to repair them in the short term.

## 6. TREASURERS REPORT

Mr. Roy Waldron presented the Treasurers Reports for the **VH Bar**. Opening Balance £11,972.16 with Bar Income of £21,696.81. After deducting Bar Charges and Bar purchases the Bar Gross Profit was £9,816.03. After deducting other expenditure, the Operational Profit/Loss was £4,634.45 resulting in a Closing Balance of £16,606.61. Balance sheet ending 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2024 is £18,358.01.

The bar is making approximately 20% profit.

RW proposed that the bar donates £8,000 to the VH Charity. This has been agreed and accepted by the committee.

Mrs. S Shelborne (Treasurer VH) presented the **VH accounts**. Opening balance is £23,754 with Total Operational Income and Receipts £16,130.15. Total Expenditure is £17,026.27 with Operational Profit/Loss of -£896.12. The VH bank balance as of 30<sup>th</sup> September was £22,657.94.

The treasurer stated that the Parish Council has been late in paying for their hall bookings and also late in paying their share of the playing field mowing costs. These payments would therefore be shown in next year's accounts.

The gas service is showing zero for the last accounting year but the service took place on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.

VH maintenance is significantly lower this year as last year the hall was redecorated inside and out, new fire doors were installed in the changing room area and the 5 yearly electrical safety check. The septic tank was emptied free of charge this year.

This year the VH had bookings for 45 functions, two polling days and 9 Pop Up Bar Nights.

The VH had a grant from the local Football association which paid for 70% of the football posts costs.

The VH received a sum of £552 from Two Rivers Housing Assoc. towards the costs incurred by the VH for the damage caused to the drains by the willow tree roots.

Mr. Watkins kindly donated £500 to cover performers costs at the Music Festival.

**The Restricted Account**, which has been set up for the development of the play had an opening balance of £3377.40. Various incomes and donations have been received to a total of £7,776.50. The main expenditure has been on a new piece of equipment, a swing which cost £8,370.11 (inc VAT). The annual maintenance of the play area equipment is paid for by the Lucy Machin and George Whyral village charities.

The closing balance of the account is £2,783.79. The plan is to buy a final piece of equipment, a climbing frame, then the account will be closed.

## **7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The election of Officers/Managing Trustees was undertaken. All Officers/Managing Trustees resigned and no new nominations came forward. The Officers/Managing Trustees were proposed and seconded as below:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Holder</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
CHAIRMAN/Trustee	Mr. P Gwilliam	Mr. R Waldron	Mrs. J Maxwell
VICE CHAIRMAN/Trustee	Mrs. A Watkins	Mrs. R Lacy	Mr. P Gwilliam
TREASURER (HALL)/Trustee	Mr. S Shelbourn	Mr. R Waldron	Mr. A. Watkins
TREASURER (BAR) Trustee	Mr. R Waldron	Mr. J Entwistle	Mr. P Warden
SECRETARY/Trustee	Mr. J Entwistle	Mr. P Gwilliam	Mrs. A Watkins
FACILITIES MANAGER/Trustee	Mrs. D Gwilliam	Mrs. S Longley	Mrs. R Lacy

A representative from each organisation that uses the hall regularly, will be invited to at least two Managing Trustees meetings per year.

<b>User Group/Representative</b>	<b>Representative</b>
W I	Mrs. S Longley
Gardening Club	Mrs. L Thexton
FOEBS	Mrs. A Wood
Friends of St Mary's	Mrs. D Gwilliam
Table Tennis Club	Mr. K Froud
Tuesday Lunch Club	Mrs. M Fox
PCC	Mrs. J McHattie
Functions Committee	Mrs. J Maxfield
Local History	Mrs. R Lacey
Parish Council	Mr. P Warden
Village Representative	Mr. M Sutton

## 8. AOB

Mr. M Sutton mentioned that for Remembrance Sunday it might be appropriate to have all the names of the fallen put onto the phone box on the village green. The chairman stated that this is an issue for the PC and not the VH as the PC own the phone box. **Action:** Mr. P Warden (PC).

Mrs. S Shelborne believes that the Peoples Orchard should be fenced off from the rest of the playing field. This could be a safe area for residents and also an area where dogs could be let of their leads. Benches could also be put in this area. Dog fouling is also a problem and more signage is needed. **Action:** The VH Committee will consider these requests and price them.

Mrs. S Longley asked if the play area should be fenced in fully. The VH Treasurer said that it is not a legal requirement to do so but the knee rail will be extended when the climbing frame is installed. The knee rail is to keep cars at a distance from the play area.

Mrs S Longley (WI) mentioned that her apologies in not attending the recent Acceptance of Accounts meeting had not been captured in the minutes of that meeting. This is noted by the VH Secretary.

Being no more questions, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

Signed: