

Wartling Village Hall Trust Annual General Meeting held at The Reid Hall on Thursday 10th March 2016 at 7.30pm

Present

Derek Willis – Chairman
Rowena Gittoes – Vice Chairman
Will Reid – Treasurer
Sandy Round – Secretary
Caron Rodemark – Trustee
Nikki Saunders – Trustee
Graham Richards – Trustee
Trish Tilling – Booking Clerk
Sara Parker – Parish Council Representative

Derek Willis welcomed everyone and introduced the committee.

The minutes of the previous AGM were read, approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Rowena Gittoes and seconded by Will Reid.

Chairman's Report 2015

2015 has been an interesting year for the Hall and its team of new Trustees. The previous team's great job, a hard act to follow, had always done a but the new team's energy and motivation has resulted in an equally good job.

Bank Account

A catalogue of errors by the bank took us 5 months to change to new signatories. Our resulting complaint earned us £347 compensation. Online banking is planned for the future.

Research of other Village Halls

Visits to other halls to view their facilities highlighted the fact that the Reid Hall is a fantastic venue and facility.

Fund Raising

Boreham Street & Wartling Fund donated £500 to the hall for Wifi installation and subscription for the year. The Macmillan coffee morning, held by the

trustees, raised £1400 and the Jumble sale just over £900, which was generously topped up to £1000 by Mr Ray Cruttenden.

Financial Report 2015

Financial details to follow in the Treasurer's report with information about the fixtures that have been replaced and improved this year.

Website

Having changed our host, our site has been updated making it easier to use with 'Live calendar' showing availability to anyone with internet access.

We are now the first Reid Hall listed in google search and Halls for Hire has been updated greatly improving our online presence. This along with Wifi availability and free adverts in Friday-ad and Parish pump has significantly increased enquiries.

Working Party

Four locals kindly spent 2 hours one Saturday getting the garden under control.

Volunteers

Anyone wishing to volunteer to maintain aspects of the hall such as gardening or decorating were asked to put their contact details on the clipboard provided.

Security

The electrical cupboard has been locked as the Solar Panels had been turned off. As we could prove the revenue earned, the hall did not suffer the considerable loss this mistake might have caused.

Plans for the Future

Wishing to future proof the hall by 'replacing rather than repairing' leading to an improved carbon footprint and cost savings the trustees applied for funding via Wealden Council. This was to make improvements such as replacing blown windows and poor fitting doors, improving the entrance to achieve proper disability access, upgrading inside lighting and loft insulation to reduce energy costs and outside lighting to alleviate the dark parking. This funding requires us to use some of the Hall's reserve funds and seek assistance from the Parish Council. We have been granted both the Parish council's support and 80% of our requested amount via Wealden Council i.e. £8000.

Thanks

The Chairman thanked all volunteers, hirers (mentioned in the Treasurer's Report), working parties, fund raising helpers and husbands & wives of the trustees for putting up with their partners absence owing to Hall business.

Special mentions went to:-

Norman Honeysett for being our heating 'monitor' and advisor.

Pam Gainer for continuing as bank signatory until the banking problems were resolved.

Hugh Parkes for displaying the flags on special occasions.

The Hagues for continued support keeping the hedges down.

Jackie and Trish for their continued work with bookings and cleaning.

The entire committee for their continued efforts and motivation for improvement.

The person (anonymous by request) who looks after some maintenance and the garden for his time, machines and fuel.

Future

Boreham Street & Wartling Fund are holding a party (BBQ & drinks) to commemorate the queen's ninetieth birthday with Beacon lighting at the Bull's Head on April 21st.

We are considering using the hall for the 'all New Xmas bash' by rejuvenating the Wartling & Boreham Street Christmas parties.

January 18th 2017 is the Hall's 25th Anniversary, a commemorative event is being discussed.

Treasurer's Report 2015

Cash funds as at Jan 1st 2015	£23639.34
Net surplus for the year	£ 1843.40
Cash Funds as at Dec 31st	£25024.50
Net Assets	£25875.00

2015 was a challenging year with banking difficulties, solar panels being turned off, the loss of a couple of regular booking and some hiccups with the booking system. However our healthy net surplus (down on last year but up on 2013)

has been generated mainly through cost containment, with the largest cost (£1128) being the bi-annual essential floor treatment.

Our purchases to enhance and upgrade the hall have been a baby changing unit, new Christmas decorations, new locks & Wifi (thanks to a £500 donation from the Boreham Street & Wartling Fund).

We are getting new regular bookings and have saved on accountancy fees (£100 this year against £588 in the past) and with a free charity hosting website account we only pay £5 per year for our domain name.

Will Reid offered his thanks to our main regular hirers as we are unable to maintain a hall like this as an amenity without relying on them:- Frank's Dance Club, Counterpoint Arts, the Brownies, Line dancing, the Art group, Ballroom Dancing with Audrey Goldsmith, the Advanced Motorcyclists, the Antiques Fair, Messy Church, the Christmas Fair, Race Night, Parish Council Meetings, the Horticultural Society and the Flower Show.

Election of the Trustees

The Trustees were individually proposed and seconded by members of the parish and were voted onto the Management Committee en bloc. Proposed by Simon Parker and seconded by Tania Reid.

A.O.B.

Before AOB Derek Willis (in keeping with previous AGMs) invited everyone to join the Trustees in a glass of wine after the meeting.

Paws Watch, a version of Neighbourhood Watch for Dog Walkers, was introduced by Sara Parker who had leaflets for anyone interested. Sara was thanked for her efforts.

There were questions from the floor regarding the lighting, particularly in the car park, which our grant will allow us to improve.

Some of our regular hirers raised the questions of our booking system and changes in our procedure. These issues will be addressed separately.

The next AGM will be held in March 2017 – the date will be announced nearer the time.

