

# **Annual General meeting of Ston Easton Village Hall**

*Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7pm*

1. Welcome, and apologies for absence.
2. Those present.
3. Minutes of previous AGM 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023
4. Matters arising from previous meeting.
5. Chairman's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Election of new committee.
8. AOB.
9. Close.

**Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Committee of Management of Ston Easton Village Hall  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6pm**

**1. Apologies:-**

Ainslie Saunders, Dot Hunter, Anna Clark, Karen and Ashley Ayres, Lesley Gregory, Shelley Stubbington, Jackie Smith.

**2. Present:-**

Krissie Dukes, Margo Wilcock ,Kirsten Jones ,Carol Fitzsimmons, Graham Jones, Rick Fitzsimmons, and Valerie Jones

**3. The minutes of the last meeting** were read and unanimously accepted.

**4. Matters arising.**

Graham reported that he had researched holding film nights at the hall which would involve a large capital outlay. Litton have started them and spent £10,000 on setting it up. It was decided that we would abandon the idea.

**5. Chairman's report**

Rick began by looking back over the years since the committee took over –  
2020 Restoring and improving.

2021 Improving and encouraging use of hall - more regular bookings to stabilise income.

2022 Maintaining smooth running and establishing a reliable and popular venue.

*Regular Bookings* – Choir, Education Group, Dog scenting, Gardening Club, Zumba, Afternoon Tea

*Popular Events* include children and adult birthday and celebration parties, business and group training sessions.

*New events* include Tai Chi classes, ballroom dancing, and a quiz night.

There are a few outstanding projects to be completed:-

Insulation to annexe roof

Facias and guttering at front of building

Improve outside lighting

Replace front doors

We have been able to keep our fees at the same level as our income is covering our expenditure plus the additional expense of increased energy costs.

On a practical level the rota is working well enabling us to keep the hall looking clean and tidy, however, we do need more volunteers to help with general running and maintenance.

The committee were thanked for their hard work and Graham for his financial advice.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

**Opening Balance      Jan 2022 £18,969.41**

**Closing Balance                      Dec 2022 £21,323.87**

It has been another good year – several projects have been completed which help with hall use.

The financial policies are continually being checked and updated so that everyone can see exactly where the funds are being spent.

Graham was thanked for his support.

We received the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £3,667 and donations of £170.70 which included £115.70 from the 100 Club

Our efforts at fundraising have helped to support the hall and thanks are due to our team of volunteers who regularly roll up their sleeves to help.

## **7. Election of the Committee of Management of Ston Easton Village Hall. (The Management Committee)**

Rick, Krissie Dukes, Kirsten Jones and Val are happy to stand again.

This was proposed by Graham Jones & seconded by Margo Wilcock

The officers will be elected at the first meeting.

Historically the PCC were able to have a representative on the Committee, in recent years no one has been put forward. Dot Hunter has now taken on this role and will be joining the committee.

## **8. A.O.B.**

There was no further business to discuss.

*The formal meeting ended at 6.35pm*

**Full copies of the Chairman and Treasurer's reports are with the AGM 2023 Pack.**

**Refreshments were served during which there was an open discussion.**

# Ston Easton Village Hall – 2024 AGM

## Chair's Report

It's been another successful year for our Village Hall. Everything has continued to run relatively smoothly, with both regular and individual bookings continuing as last year. Despite the rising cost of electricity, we kept our hire charges unchanged so as to avoid the risk of losing bookings, and this has worked so far.

Our regular bookers have stayed loyal, although the home education users have reduced their bookings somewhat, and their future use is unknown at present. The new Tai Chi classes have proved very popular, and the dog scent training classes, Village Voices community choir, Mendip Gardening Club, Mendip Storytelling Circle, and Zumba classes continue to thrive. The monthly "Friday Tea Cake & Chat" gatherings have continued – but could do with more support, and we're always looking to add further community events for the future. There's still a free slot on Thursday evenings if anyone has a regular activity they'd like to introduce!

The EVOLVE Sports Coaching sessions on the playing field also book the hall or the meeting room from time to time, especially for their school holiday "sports camps". Although not strictly a village hall activity, EVOLVE have set up an agreement with the Playing Field Trustees to keep the grass trimmed, both for their training sessions and also for our regular dog walkers, and this has greatly improved the visual appeal of the area, with a mix of cut areas, wildlife areas, and mown paths.

Minor improvements to our facilities have continued, most noticeably in the gents toilets. Jobs still to be done (and deferred from last year) include insulation for the annexe roof space to reduce condensation and risk of pipes freezing, replacement guttering along the south (car park) side of the building, and improved outside lighting. We are still investigating replacements for the old front doors, having had several very expensive quotations.

Our band of regular volunteers continue to keep the hall clean, tidy and supplied with consumables, and our users often comment on how tidy and well stocked everything is. Various small jobs have been carried out by volunteers too, including replacement flooring, door fitting, and installing more trellis for the ever expanding planting along the front wall. At some point we need to re-paint the interior of the hall, so feel free to volunteer your services with brushes and rollers!

Our financial situation remains sound, with income continuing to cover expenditure, but we do need to retain regular bookings to maintain this.

We'd love to do more regular community events, but we need ideas, and volunteers to help. The hall is supposed to be for the benefit of our whole community, serving "Ston Easton and the neighbourhood". Many of our bookings come from outside, and these are essential to provide income to maintain the hall, but we must keep in mind that the hall exists to serve our local community – it's not a regular business!

---

Now – to a separate but related issue. The play park and multi-use games area beyond the hall are currently owned and operated by a separate organisation: "Ston Easton Get Active Community Sports Court and Park Committee". The Get Active committee is struggling to find members and volunteers to keep this running. They recently called an emergency meeting for the local community to express support (or otherwise), and there was almost no interest shown. Without support, particularly for legal requirements such as insurance and safety inspections, but also for maintenance, the facilities that people worked so hard to provide for the whole community will be lost.

It has been suggested that this could be merged with the village hall, but this would require legal changes to our charity setup, and could potentially undermine the financial viability of the village hall itself.

This is something that needs careful consideration, and we would welcome the views of our local community on how this might be resolved. There is at present the very real risk that the play park and games area will need to be closed down in the very near future if no funding is found for the insurance and safety inspection.

---

Once again, I would like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee and the band of volunteers for all their hard work and dedication over the past year. In my last report, I referred to the continuing need for people to step forward to keep the village hall running for future generations, and it's great to have had a good response to this – but more helpers are always welcome! This doesn't need to be a major commitment if enough people get involved; it's about continuity, not effort. If you can't help personally, perhaps you could encourage others to get involved. But without people to run the hall, it will once again fall into disuse and disrepair, and the efforts of the past few years will all be for nothing!

We are very much looking forward to continuing success as a resource for the inhabitants of Ston Easton Parish and the neighbourhood.

Richard Fitzsimmons.

*Chair – Ston Easton Village Hall Management Committee.*

*May 2024*

## Financial Report, Ston Easton Village Hall, year January to December 2023

Despite rising energy prices and seeing a huge increase in our electricity bill, we managed to get through 2023 well. We have been able to maintain much of our savings and have continued moving forward with repairs and improvements. We have engaged in ongoing discussions about projects involving further upgrades and made some progress with working on practical plans for future work, using the remainders of some of the grants we received in previous years. Not only do the improvements keep the village hall in good condition, but they also make us more appealing to hire, and help make the village hall more user friendly for everyone.

We have been lucky enough to receive a good number of bookings throughout the year, and continue to be supported by many regular users, and this steady hire income goes a long way in supporting the village hall and its running costs.

We continue to adapt and amend our finance policy and it is always our aim to get things functioning as well as they can be in line with our current financial situation. After experiencing ongoing difficulties with our current banking provider, we will be looking at changing the bank account as soon as possible and hope for a brighter banking future for the village hall. Despite these ongoing complications, we will remain focused on making sure we are all following our finance policy carefully and reviewing it regularly to make sure that is happening.

We strive for complete transparency for all our trustees and villagers, so everyone remains well informed about what money is being spent, where, and the reasons why. Our charitable status remains 'green', and all accounts have been provided to the Charity Commission.

This year we were grateful also to receive £213.00 in donations from local people. These donations, along with the £525.74 generated from fundraising events, will greatly help to support the hall, and we are very appreciative to anyone who has kindly contributed and helped to raise this money, it is incredibly generous, and we are thankful.

As in previous years, many wonderful members and volunteers have continued giving up their free time and providing their help and skills to improve the inside and outside of the hall. The ongoing help and support from these members and volunteers mean, we continue to save significant amounts of money from this level of support. We cannot express enough how extremely grateful we all are for all the hard work we receive from everyone involved. The difference you all make really does make a difference to us all and the future of our village hall, so a huge thank you everyone!

In summary

The opening balance January 2023 was £21,326.87.

The closing balance December 2023 was £25,152,74.

## Ston Easton Village Hall

### Income & Expenditure Statement for Year Ended 31st December 2023

	Income		Expenditure	
Hire Income	£7,554.02		Electricity	£2,024.41
Donations	£213.00		Ansvar Insurance	£800.46
Fundraising	£524.75		Water	£312.00
Additional Revenue (Interest etc)	£535.06		Repairs	£1,132.32
			Donations	£52.75
			Misc (Refunds etc.)	£100.00
			Committee Sundry Purchases / Expenses	£579.02
	Total	£8,826.83	Total	£5,000.96

#### Reconciliation

Excess Income / Expenditure	£3,825.87			
Balance Brought Forward	£21,326.87			
Total	£25,152.74		Closing Bank Balance	£25,152.74

## Ston Easton Village Hall 2023

Monies Spent & Received as follows:

Hire Income - £7554.02

Donations Received- £213.00

Fundraising - £524.75 (Afternoon tea events & Christmas concert)

Additional Revenue - £535.06 (Interest, refunds, credit etc.)

Electricity - £2024.41 (Energy costs significantly increased from April 2023 when our contract with EDF ended)

Water - £312.00

Insurance - £800.46

Donations (Ston Easton Church - Afternoon tea events) - £52.75

General Works / Refurb / Spend - £1132.32 (Upgraded toilets)

Misc (Refunds etc.) - £100.00

Committee Expenses / Consumables / Sundry Purchases - £579.02 (Various items purchased for renewals, upkeep and improvements including cleaning products, a new kettle, a set of large wine glasses, a book trolley, plants for outside planter, 4 Jubilee trees and plaques, plus other minor expenses.)

In conclusion, incomings versus outgoings show 2023 to be a fair year for the village hall despite the huge rise in energy prices.