

Minutes of Athelstaneford Hall Committee AGM held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 31st January 2017

1. Welcome

Revd Joanne Evans-Boiten welcomed everyone who had come along to the 2017 AGM, with a special welcome to Sarah Morgan, acting head of Athelstaneford Primary School.

2. In attendance

In the chair – Revd Joanne Evans-Boiten

Trustees – Sarah Morgan, Alan Craig, James Logan

Committee members – Alastair Miller (Treasurer), Pat Robinson, Chris Brace, Harald Vox, Irene Pow, Rod Mair, John Reid & Sheila Williamson, Russell Calder.

Community attendees – Haig Hamilton Jnr, Norah Craig, Christine Scott, Lorna Mortis, Emma Mackenzie, Di Simcock, Dorothea Reilly, Christine Turner, Elaine Mostyn, Marion MacFarlane, Katrina Scobie, Jane Brand.

3. Apologies – Malcolm & Stephanie Duncan, Helen Napier, Krysia Campbell.

4. Minutes of AGM held on 26th January 2016

These were accepted as correct.

Proposed by Norah Craig & seconded by Russell Calder.

5. Matters arising

5.1 – Repairs & Maintenance (Harald Vox): A window broken by a football has been repaired. Some ceiling tiles have been replaced. The floor was re-done in the summer holidays (this should last for 2 years). A burst pipe in January was dug up & replaced by Charlie Jacholke, who did the work for a very modest charge. Thanks to Charlie & Sir David Kinloch.

5.2 - Gardens Open Day: A very successful event with £416 of the proceeds going to the hall. Thanks to all involved for making it such a good community event.

5.3 – Village Noticeboard: Anderson the joiner has just finished this – and we will be able to see the notices now! Alastair requested we should all inspect it to approve payment. (It was pointed out that a small strip has not been painted).

6. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer Alastair Miller presented the accounts for the year 2016, saying it had been a very successful year with a net surplus of £3600 in funds (compared with a deficit of £1700 the previous year). He pointed out this was not a 'typical' year and the increase was mainly due to Mary Poppins Nursery renting the hall for 5 weeks over the summer (at £250 per week) while their renovations were ongoing. (Ruth Dewar has made a provisional booking for repeat use of the hall for summer 2017 as they're having further work done). But in general more people have been using the hall & rental hours have increased. He pointed out it's good to see that the community is using the hall – and there are new users.

Electricity bills have fallen as Alastair has changed to a new supplier (2 year fixed term). Maintenance costs have been low in 2016 – just painting, clearing drains & replacing a tap. There were no bad debts.

Alastair reported that the Hall floor had been refurbished over the Christmas holidays. He had sought funding for this from ELC as the school have the greatest impact on the surface. After negotiation ELC suggested that if they paid £13 per hour (our standard charge is £9) this would cover the flooring cost over roughly 2 years which is the recommended interval between refurbishments, which Alastair was happy to agree to. It was further agreed that the increased charge rate would be backdated to 1 April 2016.

No other financial support has been sought.

Village booklets, updated and reprinted in 2012 at the Hall's expense but with support from ELC, are on sale in the church @ £2 each (honesty box) – proceeds so far, about £320, of which £200 still to come back to the hall funds.

So funds are good. No increase in rental rate or electric charges recommended.

The previous independent examiner of the accounts has retired, so Mr Andrew Scott (recommended by Alan Craig) has now taken over. He has seen & approved the accounts & found no faults. He was thanked & gifted £50. Accounts approved by Lorna Mortis & seconded by Irene Pow.

7. Election of Committee members to fill vacancies

Rod Mair, Stephanie Duncan. Emily Cotter (who is moving back to France) & Sheila Williamson have come to the end of their term.

Rod & Stephanie intimated they are happy to continue, Sheila and Emily requested to stand down. Thanks given to Sheila & Emily. Haig Hamilton and Jane Brand volunteered, and there being no further nominations Rod, Stephanie, Haig & Jane were duly elected without a vote.

Joanne asked once again for anyone willing to take on the Secretary role, but no volunteers so it was agreed that for the present we would take it in turns to record the minutes and the post of Secretary would remain vacant.

8. AOB

8.1 – The bridge event, a community event, was a great success, with ½ the proceeds going to the church and ½ to the hall. Thanks to Sheila Williamson & all involved.

8.2 – Di Simcock raised the topic of solar panels (Atheistaneford is a conservation village so would solar panels ever be approved?)/insulation/energy conservation and asked if the committee would like to arrange an energy audit for the hall & maybe exhibit relevant information at a later date. The committee agreed to look into it and cost getting a company in to advise.

8.3 – Emma Mackenzie enquired about upgrading the decoration & facilities of the hall interior (possibly increasing number of lets?). It was suggested a small committee be formed to look into this.

8.4 – Irene has had an enquiry from a Dunbar/Innerwick cub scout leader for twenty 8-10 year-old children to use the hall overnight. Issues discussed: Health & Safety regs for overnight use? Renter obliged to meet these. Charge? £50-£100 depending on use. Irene to request more details before a decision is made.

8.5 – Harald Vox has resigned from the Haddington Community Council; Hague Hamilton is now our 'dual' member – on Atheistaneford Village Hall committee and Haddington Community Council.

8.6 – Jane Brand said that the Parent Council fundraising team have asked whether the hall might supply a media system (projector & screen) and a business TV licence for the premises. Alastair suggested users could bring their own equipment and he would investigate the licence (£145). (Subsequent to the meeting he has asked Jane to put forward more detailed proposals with costings, which she has agreed to do.)

8.7 – It was generally agreed that more power points are needed in the hall. Irene said she will discuss it with George Preston, the electrician, when he comes to do his regular check.

9. **Date of next Village Hall Committee AGM - 30th January 2018**

Minutes of Athelstaneford Community Association AGM held in Athelstaneford Village Hall on Tuesday 31st January 2017

1. Minutes of AGM held on 26th January 2016

These were accepted as correct.

Proposed by Chris Brace, seconded by Alan Craig

2. Matters Arising

2.1 – Cogtail Burn clean-up with the County Ranger on 11th February. Help needed please, and with teas after in village hall. See Di Simcock or Sheila Williamson.

2.2 – Bus shelter. The council have so far refused to repair the bus shelter for a 3rd time after vandalism and also rejected Harald Vox's offer to repair it involving the village teenagers (with the council supplying the materials). But after 12 months, they have now agreed to repair it. Thanks to Harald for chasing them so diligently. We discussed how it might be reinforced post-repair to stop re-vandalising & that the local youngsters be reminded of its function!

3. Glebe

Chris Brace gave an update: Another active year, currently about 10 regularly involved, bringing people from different parts of the village together. 15 fruit trees have been planted & are thriving. Herbaceous borders & growing areas doing well. There are new notice boards up. The Glebe was part of the Open Gardens Day and also featured at the East Lothian exhibition at the John Grey Centre. It has been assessed by Keep Scotland Beautiful again and this time received a 'Thriving' award, which is encouraging. They are working with the Countryside Ranger planning an event in June looking at wildlife, bugs etc.

All volunteers are welcome. Come along on a Sunday afternoon, especially once the weather begins to warm up.

4. Haddington Community Council

Haig Hamilton told us he has been to 5 or so meetings (Planning conflicts of interest kept him from some others)

There were requests from the Community Association for the following issues to be aired: solar panels in Athelstaneford, traffic calming (traffic is speeding through the village again) and big articulated lorries passing through. The next Haddington Community Council meeting is on Feb. 14th.

5. Gardens Open Day

Discussed in the Hall Commmittee AGM.

There will be no Gardens Open Day in Athelstaneford in 2017.

6. AOCB

6.1 – Di Simcock spoke further on the question of raising villagers' awareness of reducing energy usage. Is there any interest? Maybe we could get information from a non-commercial organisation? And involve the school? And include villagers' experience? Di & Chris Brace said they would be willing to host an event.

6.2 – Haig Hamilton was asked about the housing proposal in Athelstaneford – there has been no progress.

6.3 – The question was raised about further combined village hall/church fundraising events (like the jazz night) – Any suggestions to be emailed to Joanne, please.

7. Date of next meeting - 30th January 2018