

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of the Great Easton Parish Hall Fund
registered charity number 295400
at the Great Easton Village Hall on 23 January 2025
Time: 7.00 p.m.

Minutes

Present:

Committee members: Tristan Martens (chair and councillor), Marie Benterman (councillor), Peter Neale (councillor) and John Stevens (councillor).

Kate Rixson (secretary, taking minutes)

Beneficiaries of the Hall Fund Trust: 4 residents of Great Easton and Tilty parishes.

1. Chair's introduction

Councillor Tristan Martens opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the AGM of the Hall Fund charity. He explained that the AGM had been called in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission's Scheme sealed on 10 October 2006 which set out the procedural rules for the operation of the charity by the Parish Council as trustee of the charity. The chairman outlined the evening's business (agenda published 6 January and notice displayed on 7 January 2025) and the scope of the meeting.

2. Apologies

Councillors Julia England, David Hahn, Claire Hurst and Jenny Heath.

3. Trustee Report on the year 2023-2024

Summary of Chairman's Annual Report

Financial matters

Although the hall's income in the financial year 2023-24 had been about £4,000 less than outgoings, the position in 2024-25 was likely to be much improved. Income from hires was between £400 and £800 per month and the hall was in use most weekdays and many weekends. The hall was likely to break even in the current financial year and may make a small profit.

Grants had been awarded by Uttlesford District Council from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and by the Bernard Sunley Foundation, for improvements and repairs to the hall. The UKSPF grant had been received and was an earmarked

reserve in the accounts. The Bernard Sunley Foundation grant would be paid as a reimbursement of expenditure on the hall refurbishment.

The grants would be used to cover redecoration inside and out, replacement of gutters, repairs to the damaged studwork on the back wall of the hall, and repairs to the rendering where needed. A contractor had been appointed and the work would be timed to minimise the impact on hirers.

The hall fund would need to contribute to this expenditure but the grants would be very helpful.

The accounts for 2023-24 would be reviewed for approval by the trustee committee at tonight's meeting. The Annual Report to the Charity Commission had been made.

Future management of the hall and the Hall Fund charity

In 2006 the Parish Council had been appointed as the sole managing trustee of the charity by the Charity Commission. The Official Custodian of Charities remained the legal owner of the land and hall but as holding trustee could take no part in decision-making.

The trustee committee continued to work on its plan to secure the hall's future for the next 2-10 years at least and felt that the hall's improved financial position was a good basis for this. The Charity Commission had responded to the Trust's enquiry about transferring the hall to the ownership of the Parish Council. Its advice was that the property of a charity (i.e. the hall) could not be transferred to a local council even if it would still be used for the same purpose as set out in the governing documents. It had also advised that if the hall were ever sold, the proceeds could only be used to provide a village hall. This advice would be followed in planning for the hall's future.

4. Annual Accounts 2023-24

The accounts were presented and reviewed by members of the trustee committee and approved unanimously. Income had been £5,007.54 and outgoings £9,229.81. A copy would be annexed to these minutes and placed on the Parish Council's website.

5. Question and answer session

No questions were raised in the meeting and the secretary had not received any beforehand.

6. Next meeting

Trustee committee meetings would take place approximately quarterly in 2025. The next AGM would take place after 31 March 2025, the end of the current financial year, in accordance with the provisions of the 2006 Scheme.

The meeting was closed at 7.10 pm.