

EASTERTON VILLAGE HALL
King's Road, Easterton. SN10 4PS
Registered Charity Number: 305510
Easterton Village Hall Annual General Meeting [AGM]: Friday 12th Sept 2025

MINUTES

Present:

Kieran Pierce (Chair/Trustee); Chris Saunders (Treasurer/Trustee); Colin Ball (Vice Treasurer/Temp Bookings Secretary/Trustee); Jacque Ball (Meetings Secretary/Trustee);

Geraldine Hamilton (Trustee); Heather Walker (Trustee)

Judy Boyt (Parish Council Rep); Nick Fuller (Parish Council Rep); Nick Beard (Fete Committee Rep)

	Item	Action
1	Welcome: Chair welcomed everyone present and thanked them for their attendance.	Chair
2	Apologies: Rebecca Harman, Helen Hardman, Anthony Snook, Sue and Mike Allen.	Meetings Secretary
3	Approval of minutes of AGM 2024: Approved; Proposed by Kieran Pierce, seconded by Chris Saunders.	Chair
4.	Election of Officers: New post holders since 2024 AGM has been Edward Hammock. All Committee/Trustee holders present indicated their willingness to continue in post for this coming year. Those not present, to be asked to give their intentions by/for the next general committee meeting.	Chair
5.	Chair's Report: (Kieran Pierce) It's great to be with you all now that summer is coming to a close and we embrace the changing colours of autumn. Since the last AGM in May 2024, we have completed several projects designed to improve access to, and use of the Hall. These include the installation of outside lighting, the addition of a new canopy over the main entrance doors, and the installation of an electronic lock, to name just a few. None of this would have been possible without the ongoing support of the Fête Committee and the labour provided by volunteers and local tradespeople. We are continuing to explore ways to complete the drainage works and the footpath at the rear of the Hall. Looking further ahead, we are also aware of the need to eventually update or replace the Hall's private sewage system. Earlier this year, we were pleased to host the 2025 Fête as usual, as well as continue welcoming our regular user groups, such as the Sewing Bees, yoga, and short mat bowls, to name just a few. Last year, David and Raine Green, along with David Houghton, stepped down from the committee, and we welcomed Edward Hamaock as a new trustee. I, as Chair, am also planning to step down, as my work commitments have increased, including frequent international travel that now takes me out of the UK for several weeks each month. The IT improvements we trialled last year have proven successful. In fact, I'm speaking to you today using some of the very services we've implemented, including the Hall's free Wi-Fi, this Teams call, and access to Office software provided to us free of charge through our charitable status. All bookings are also now handled electronically, and we are able to accept credit card payments as well. We also recently completed the first stage of upgrading our storage facilities for regular users of the Hall. We aim to finalise this in the coming months, which will make it easier to find and access equipment and supplies as needed.	Chair

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	Later this year we will install the signs (you see before you), along with control barriers for the car park, further improving the security and accessibility of the Hall, its car park and the grounds surrounding. A special thank you goes to all Trustees, both past and present. Without your continued support, the Hall we are meeting in today, would not be possible. It's always a pleasure to see the community come together when needed, working alongside the Trustees and the Parish Council, to make events, like the Remembrance Day curry lunch, such a success. The Hall, and the services it offers, truly relies on this spirit of volunteerism and shared effort. We look forward to the remainder of the year and to seeing you all again at next year's AGM. In the meantime, if anyone would like to get more involved, please feel free to speak to any of the trustees here this evening.	
6	Treasurers Report: (Chris Saunders) For Financial Year ending 31-12-2024 The excess of £1623 income for the year to 31st December 2024 looks, at first glance, to be a satisfactory outcome – but it isn't entirely. Working on the basis that generated income (ex. Grants, donations, events, etc.) of £7071 should be sufficient to cover expected overheads (ex. Capital expenditure and event costs and share paid out to RBL) of £6806 we are left with a small operating surplus of £265 But – the cost of our 5yr electrical systems check carried out in October was not determined until the invoice of £395 was received for payment in January 2025. Our operating surplus of £265 therefore, in real terms, becomes a small deficiency of £130 The above is nothing to worry about, but it does go to show that we were operating on a tight budget and relying upon grants and donations etc. to see us through the year. The Capital expenditure of £1645 on the new exterior lights was covered by grants from the Parish Council, the Fete Committee, and our own cash resources. Following a revision of our hire charges applied in January 2025, and a recalculation of our operating income and costs in July 2025, a revised budget for income/overheads for the year 2025 forecasts a calculated surplus of some £400, which is considered satisfactory, although any known rising overhead costs might dictate further hire charge adjustments. Plans for further capital expenditure on improvements should be curtailed where possible, allowing for fund raising resources to be set aside for the ever pressing need to work towards replacing our septic tank facility in the future. Any necessary capital expenditure should ideally be funded by grants, events, donations, etc. Kieran added further comment: that we have just about broken even, and as other prices are arising around us, we plan to review our hiring rates as we move forward to keep up with that.	Treasurer
7	Hall Hiring Secretary's Report: (Colin Ball) As the financial year for the Hall is from Jan 1st, the figures will be based on income from bookings received during the financial year, even if the booking took place outside that period. The income from all bookings in 2024 was £16,364; with our seven regular hirers providing 62% of that amount. Our thanks go to them for their continued support. We had 44 payments for bookings from non-regulars in 2024 The bookings process is now completely on line and is working well. The link with the bank to automate the invoice matching process did not work properly, for numerous reasons, and so is not being used.	Temp Hall Bookings Secretary

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	The introduction of the front door code lock and the advance provision of information to ad hoc hirers have recently removed the requirement for a committee member to be there to open up (and explain everything), and to lock up afterwards. Thanks go to Heather Walker for managing the 'ad hoc access' process up to this point, and to all those who have helped her. Ongoing we still need to get the hall ready at some time prior to the booking and do a check soon afterwards to ensure the hall has been left in the required state. Although not as time critical, it is still a demand on volunteers' time. The continued support of Heather and her team is greatly appreciated.	
8	Future Plans: Chris Saunders summarised: Costing and payments made to have a new (a) entrance welcome and display board – just on the job list awaiting volunteer installation now; (b) a car parking sign and drop bollard for the car park, explaining the reasoning behind the need to purchase those. Chris highlighted that the bollard was an approved type for enabling emergency service access. Bollard awaiting installation also. He also advised caution re: digging, as the Hall's water supply comes in at some point in that area. A few completion jobs to do in the storeroom (next to stage) as part of the refurbishment for hall hirers needs and as part of converting the front disabled toilet to a storeroom. The original paving and drainage job required at the back, is now just paving, as the blocked drainage issue has been sorted – thank you to local volunteers.	Treasurer
9	AOB A query was raised about the additional Wiltshire Air Ambulance clothing bank that had recently been dropped off part way up the hall car park. It had been agreed, only if it was placed in the far end of the car park near the power line, as car parking was already limited. The plan was for the bank to be moved from its current position (next to Bus Shelter) to enable room for the <i>Flood Group's</i> storage needs. However, that bank is still there. Judy Boyt indicated that the Parish Council is aware of this, and someone is following this up.	
	AGM closed at 8:30pm	