

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Briantspuddle Hall Committee, held on Wednesday
2 May 2007 at 7.30pm in Briantspuddle Village Hall**

Present:

Mrs Jeanes, Mr Harrison, Mrs Klejdys, Mr Gibbs, Mrs Pearce, Mrs Reed, Mr and Mrs Crane, Captain Badcock, Mrs Lightfoot, Mrs Thorniley, Mrs King, Mr Talbot, Mr Ventham

The Chairman, Mr Talbot, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Mr Menzies.

The Minutes of the Previous AGM

The minutes of last year's Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 3 May 2006 were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented her report on the previous year's activities. The report is stored with the Hall Committee's records.

The Accounts and the Treasurer's report

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006 were circulated and accepted by all those present. The treasurer reported on the previous year's financial activities, and this report is stored with the Hall Committee's records. Mrs Klejdys noted that the Hall was increasingly running into financial difficulties and without the contribution from Open gardens might not have been able to balance its books. She wondered if the Parish Council might be able to increase its annual grant. Paul Badcock explained that the Council had been generous with its allocations over the years, particularly in relation the amount it had set aside from its limited reserves to go towards the development. Mrs Pearce asked what grants had already been obtained for the Hall development, apart from that indicated from the Parish council. Mr Talbot stated that £35000 had been allocated from Purbeck District Council, and it was likely that a further £60000 would be allocated by Dorset County Council. This was in addition to the £6000 from the Parish Council reserves and the £40000 reserve in village Hall funds. This provided a good basis for seeking matched funding from other groups.

Election of Committee

Representation of relevant organisations was established as follows:

Sally King	representative of the Parish council
Richard Hall	representative of the Briantspuddle singers
Peter Harrison	representative of the Bladen Social Club
Paul Badcock	representative of the Friends of the Village Shop
Sheila Pearce	representative of the Keep Fit groups

It was noted that the representative of the Parochial Church Council had still to be confirmed.

The following were elected to the committee, proposed by Jenny Lightfoot, seconded by Sue Jeanes and adopted without dissent:

Jenny Beedle, Pat Crane, Stephanie Klejdys, Peter Talbot, Philippa Thorniley.

The following were co-opted to the Committee:

Richard Gibbs, Jim Crane, Phil Ventham.

Any Other Business

Jenny Lightfoot expressed her thanks on behalf of the community to the committee and its officers for their hard work and continued commitment, for many sustained over a long period of time.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

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7/5/08

Village Hall Committee - Chairman's report May 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The AGM is an opportunity to look back at the last 12 months and forward to the next with the hope that the achievements in the coming year will be as good as they have been in the past. It is also an opportunity for the community to make known its views and needs regarding the village hall, which I hope you will do.

This year has been a mixture of success and disappointment but overall a successful outcome in terms of improving hall facilities to meet current and future needs.

During the year applications for grants were made to the National Lottery and the COMMA landfill trust for finance towards the building of new toilets, kitchen, additional space for hall activities and re-thatching the roof.

The application to COMMA, to re-thatch the roof, unfortunately was unsuccessful this time around, but has been retained by ACRE, who administers the COMMA grants, pending the release of further funds after May 2008 when the current funding round finishes. Our application was one of 207 submitted from which only 29 grants were eventually made.

When our application to the National Lottery passed first assessment hurdle high hopes existed that this request for £250,000 was going to be successful. However those hopes were dashed when our application failed to meet the criteria for the next stage of assessment. The selection process for the lottery community buildings application was extremely exacting as there are only going to be 150 grants awarded for the whole country, so the chances of success were we have been told no better than about 1 in 150, there having been 1500 submissions to the community buildings fund received by the lottery assessors.

Whilst this was an opportunity to, if successful, receive £250,000 of funding it was also a rather protracted application process and it would have been late 2008 before we would have ultimately known if our application was one of those that would be funded. There was however a positive side to the National Lottery application outcome that; the committee efforts in 2008 can be focused on other applications to SITA, VIRIDOR and the numerous other grant making bodies (who have a much shorter application process) rather than waiting in anticipation until the end of 2008 for a National Lottery decision.

The experience from making these two capital funding applications has enabled the hall committee to hone the strategy for the development project into three stages with the intent of being able to commence work on the first stage in 2009. Funds already available represent 35% of the sum required for phase 1 and the prospects of obtaining the remaining 65% by early 2009 are good. Discussions have taken place with architects recently about drawing up the detailed specification for demolition of the existing toilets, kitchen and outbuildings and their replacement so that tenders can be obtained for the work by the end of 2008.

The applications for funding the installation of a hearing loop and PA system to assist those with hearing disability and a multimedia projector and screen were however successful and the hall is now equipped with audiovisual and IT facilities that have already resulted in additional bookings and thus additional income from local government and third sector organisations.

The main purpose however of installing the audiovisual and IT equipment is to be able to provide a greater range of improved services to residents. The equipment will enhance the quality of the popular talks programme that Paul Badcock has ably organised for the last two years and is the basis of arrangements that are in hand to be able to show films once more following the decision by Moviola in 2007 to withdraw its service to Briantspuddle.

Other activities that require the use of this equipment, such as a digital photography skills seminar in May, have also being made possible.

As you will see when we proceed to the Treasurers report the last years fund raising activities were again a success, with the Open Gardens event providing a substantial percentage of the total. There will however not be an open Gardens event in 2008, in part due to the need to give those who have opened their gardens for 10 years a break but also because of the anticipation at the end of last year that the hall development might commence earlier than is now likely.

Fund raising has not however ceased for 2008 and the committee has already in hand plans for alternate events such as an auction of promises as well as Artsreach, Purbeck Film festival, talks and films as mentioned already.

None of this fundraising would however have been possible without yet again the continued commitment from all members of the hall committee and of course everyone who attended the events that took place in the hall during the last year.

To keep this hall viable and sustainable for the future it is however necessary to keep facilities in accord with both current and future requirements and legislation. Unfortunately existing hall hiring, which occurs mostly in the evening, does not make for a sustainable future and greater utilisation of the hall during the morning, afternoons and weekends is necessary to ensure that the financial burden of running and maintaining the hall does not fall exclusively onto the existing regular users such as the Briantspuddle Singers, Keep Fit groups and the Bladen Social Club. As already observed the installation of audiovisual facilities has created additional hiring opportunities and it is intended to pursue such opportunities with vigour for the benefit of all.

As I said at the beginning of this report the AGM is an opportunity to look back on what has been achieved and forward to what it is hoped to achieve. I hope this report has done that. What I also said was the AGM is an opportunity for the community to make known its views and needs regarding the village hall and I hope you will do so this evening, or at any other time by contacting a member of the hall committee, in a constructive manner as your views count.

Peter Talbot



Treasurer's report for the year ended 31st December 2007

2007 has been another satisfactory year.

The hall and equipment hire charges together with the Parish Council grant covered the cost of heating, lighting, insuring, cleaning and administering the village hall.

Repairs and maintenance were easily covered by monies generated by fund raising and it has been possible to save some of the profits of the fund raising in the National Savings and Investment Account.

Fund raising during 2007 was very successful. The 2007 Open Gardens was the most successful yet with a profit of £3,658, the talks raised £421, the Artsreach productions £697, Dorset Film shows 3139, Purbeck Film Festival £187, the Treasurer hunt £31 and the Christmas Fair Stall £78.

In 2007 the 100 Club subscription was raised from £6 per number per annum to £10. All the numbers were sold. (The 100 Club has been organised for eleven years and during that time costs have risen and it was not unreasonable to raise the cost of the number). This meant that after provision had been made for the prizes £700 was transferred to the National Savings and Investment Account..

During 2007 the Committee decided to close the Portman Building Society Account. This was prompted by the fact that Portman refused to treat the Briantspuddle Hall Committee as a separate entity. Since the first named signee was also an investor with the Portman Building Society the bonus payable when Nationwide took over Portman was combined with the Hall Committee which meant that everyone lost out. Despite letters being sent to the Chairman Portman Building Society the Society refused to alter the rules or even consider the situation. The situation was resolved by the bonus payable being apportioned between the Hall and signee. Not a totally fair solution to anyone.

The Hall Committee are to reinvest the monies from the Portman b.s./Nationwide into a special Charity Aid Foundation Account. This will avoid any future conflict of interests.

During the year grant monies have been received for the new Connecting Dorset scheme as well as the new screen and projector equipment. The larger in place screen will be a bonus when the hall is used for any powerpoint presentation, film show or talk.

Your treasurer and committee continue to keep a close eye on expenditure in order to make sure that your hall is run in the most efficient and cost effective manor.

PHILIPPA THORNILEY

Hon. Treasurer.

4th May 2008