

BRANDESTON VILLAGE HALL & RECREATION GROUND

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING for year ended 31.12.14.

Meeting date 26th February, 2015.

Present: Paul Baker - Chairman
Jane Mitchell – Treasurer
Sue Thurlow – Secretary
Together with 17 residents of Brandeston

Welcome

The chairman welcomed all to the 2014 AGM of the new village hall.

Apologies for absence

Kathy Churchill, Darryl Morgan.

Minutes of the 2013 AGM

The minutes were agreed as being a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising from this last meeting.

Chairman's Report – December 2014

At the last AGM it was announced that Fred Muggleston and Frank Eyles were stepping down from the committee. As a result Jane Mitchell has taken on the role of Treasurer and Terry Robinson has agreed to oversee the annuals checks for the Hall such as extinguishers, electrical installation and the boiler. He also regularly checks the children's playground as well as continuing to lead some of the projects for the Hall. I am extremely grateful to them both for the work carried out in the last year.

I would now like to inform you about the maintenance that has been carried out and improvements that have been made to the Hall and the playing field over the last fifteen months. In the Hall we have improved the storage space with the alteration to the gentlemen's toilet and a new set of cupboards in the meeting room. The problems with the sink in the kitchen have been resolved by a new one being installed and it has been a great success. The Hall, itself, has been painted and certainly looks the better for it. The paving slabs at the entrance to the Hall have been re-laid and broken ones removed and the French doors at the back of the Hall and the sliding doors have been repaired. The steps to the left of the patio have had rails fitted in a similar style to the ones on the Jubilee steps.

On the playing field we have added a basketball space, a set of football goals, two picnic tables and a barbeque area. These improvements have meant that, as a committee, we accepted that expenditure would exceed income in 2014.

We will still have a minimum of £20,000 set aside in case of emergencies and in 2015 we will continue to look at how we can improve the facilities of both the Hall and the playing field. We will need to make decisions over the next few years as to where our priorities lie and make the necessary changes when funds allow.

Moving on to fundraising, we have been active on two fronts raising funds for the Hall and the Tennis Court. Additional events have been a cookery demonstration, two village walks and Nobody's Wedding. I must thank everybody who has been involved in either organizing or attending an event or both!

A great deal of money is also raised by our 'regular' events such as the Coffee Morning, Whist, Table Tennis and Film Club. Once again, my thanks go to all the people who work so hard to make these events so successful. On a sad note, Rick and Pam Reade have decided to step down as organisers of the Whist evenings at the end of the season. If you would be willing to run the evenings or know someone who could be approached to take up the reins, please approach Rick, Pam or myself.

I now move on to my 'thank-you' section.

Firstly, thanks to Pat Peck for her thoroughness in the cleaning of the Hall. Secondly, to the playing field committee for all their time and effort they have given which has led to the enhanced facilities in the last twelve months and thirdly, to the Hall committee for the support they have given me and for the work they have carried out on your behalf.

And finally I must mention Peter Thurlow and Mark Hounsell. Peter has stepped down as a member of the committee. He has been the driving force behind 'The Brandeston' over many years and has regularly produced this high quality newsletter for the Village. On your behalf I pass on my thanks to him. Mark has organised the 100+ club on behalf of the committee and has been a great supporter of ours in our dealings with the district council. Thank you, Mark.

Treasurer's Report - year ended 31st December, 2014.

Jane reported as follows:

2013-2014 has been an unusual year for the hall for the following reasons:

- In order to bring the accounting period (October to September) into line with the hire period (January to December) the committee decided to extend the accounting period to fifteen months, i.e. October 2013 – December 2014. Consequently when comparing figures from year 2012 – 2013 it should be remembered that you are not comparing like to like.

- There has been a major and very successful fundraising effort to fund the construction of the tennis court on the playing field. Inevitably this has limited the fundraising effort for the hall.
- As the hall approaches 10 years old the halcyon period when repairs and maintenance needs were minimal is coming to an end. This year has seen significantly increased expenditure. It is also the committee's stated intent to keep the standard of facilities as high as possible and to improve the facilities available where possible and affordable.

Significant Expenditure: **£**

Maintenance/Repairs

Interior painting of hall	3355.00
Conversion new store cupboard	1518.00
Terrace steps	1659.00
New sink	763.20
New BBQ area, picnic area materials and works	1165.10
Partition repairs	702.74
French door repairs	544.80

Equipment:

Football goals	1622.00
New picnic tables	496.80
Basketball hoop	520.00

Other:

Donation to tennis court	2000.00
Oil, waste collections, electricity and insurance	6554.84
Cleaning	2195.95

As can be seen from the accompanying income and expenditure sheet, the overall position for the period is that the hall has a deficit of £12,658.76.

This situation is not unexpected and reflects the unusual year and increasing pressures on expenditure as the hall ages. It should not detract from an excellent performance in a number of areas (figures below have been adjusted to reflect the different accounting period):

- Hall hire consistently good at £9,214, albeit a slight decrease of 4% overall
- Fundraising up 36% overall although contribution to the hall down by 40%.
- Contributions from film club, whist club and table tennis clubs significant and much appreciated (almost £1,000).
- Equipment donated by the lunch club including a freezer to value of £250.
- Excellent performance from the coffee mornings which raised £1,385.

It would be impossible to run the hall without the very significant work put in by very many people which is reflected in these income figures.

In terms of the outlook for 2014 – 2015:

- Expenditure pressures include the provision of new chairs and tables (up to £10,000) and the likely loss of discretionary rates relief (£380).
- Assuming fundraising efforts continue at the current rate, the hall will benefit by an additional £4,000. A renegotiated electricity rate should benefit the hall by approximately £200.
- The hall retains a reserve fund of £20,000 held in a Scottish Widows account.

The balance sheet as at 31 December 2014 and the income and expenditure analysis are available for inspection and will be attached to the minutes of this meeting. These show the hall's strong financial position. The accounts have been audited by Steve Williams and signed as an accurate record.

On behalf of the committee I extend thanks to Steve and also to Frank Eyles who retired as treasurer part way through the year and from whom I have received a great deal of advice and support.

Comments from the floor:

- New chairs – Alistair Chapman commented on the possible price of the new chairs and offered to forward a contact that may be able to supply suitable ones at a lower cost. Nick Hayward added that his preference would be for banquetting chairs with high backs which are available from Staples. Roger Cunliffe asked the committee to investigate whether there would be a resale value for the old chairs.

- Clemency Cunliffe and Roy O’Brien raised the issue of solar panels to save costs on electricity bills. Sue Thurlow confirmed that this subject was raised 3 years ago and the committee did investigate. However it was thought that the cost could not be justified at the time as it would have considerable cut into our reserves and therefore the idea was abandoned. Clemency suggested that the situation may have changed now and asked the committee to have another look at this.
- Possible instigation of business rates by SCDC – Alistair Chapman commented that if we raised our hall hire fees by 4% this could cover the estimated cost of £380.

Election of Officers

The current committee members were returned unopposed.

Chairman:	Paul Baker
Secretary:	Sue Thurlow
Treasurer:	Jane Mitchell
Bookings:	Cara Duffy
Projects/repairs:	Terry Robinson

Other members:	Helen Fletcher
	Lucy Nobbs

Representatives:

Parish Council:	Kathy Churchill
All Saints PCC:	Mary Baker

Any Other Business

- The committee were asked to ensure that the automatic system on the front door was working to enable ease of entry for the disabled.
- No other items were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m. and was followed by wine and nibbles for those present.

SRT/26.03.15.