# HASTOE VILLAGE HALL TRUST

### **Charity no. 1121061**

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Hastoe Village Hall on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 at 8.00pm

**Present:** Trustees: David Ridgwell (in the Chair)

Richard White (Hon. Treasurer)

Andy Wheldon

Committee: Nigel Lane (Hon. Secretary)

John Popple Irene Purse Peter Warren

In Attendance: Jane Hill, John Hill, Ritva Lane,

Caroline Wheldon, Sheila Weiner

Apologies for absence were received from Bob Brace, Richard Dennis, Jenny Goldby and Penny Ridgwell,.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Notice had been duly given, there was a quorum present and the meeting was duly constituted.

### 1. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported as follows:

- Progress with restoration of the Hall had been immense over recent months and thanks were due to John Popple who had project-managed the work so effectively. The project was nearing completion and should be finished by the end of October 2012. [Applause]
- The Fund-raising Subcommittee, under the able chairmanship of Mike Colling and with the help and advice of Cathy Maund had secured the £50,000 Leader Fund grant to match the £50,000 raised locally. Thanks were due to Mike Colling and his team. [Applause]
- A further £20,000 was needed to equip and furnish the Hall. An independent committee under the chairmanship of Kate Colling was in course of arranging
  - a Time of Your Life Ball for February 2013 to address the shortfall.
- Formal re-opening of the Hall by Lord and Lady Rothschild was scheduled for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- Interest in hiring the Hall had increased thanks to Nigel Lane's substantial efforts.
- In the Chairman's view it was paramount that the Hall perform a dual function: first of offering local residents facilities for the uses specified in the Trust Deed, for meetings, lectures and classes and other forms of recreation and leisure; and secondly of raising the funds necessary to equip, maintain and manage the Hall by means of commercial lettings. It was vital that the Hall be used by local residents as well as by those in search of a high quality venue for parties and corporate events. The Chairman hoped that all local residents felt they could make good use of this superb building.

## 2. Village Hall Management Committee ('VHMC')

The Chairman reported that, in accordance with rules set out in the Trust Deed, Nigel Lane and Peter Warren were retiring by rotation from the VHMC.

The HCRA had elected Richard Dennis to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Nigel Lane and Peter Warren had agreed to stand for re-election as a District Community Member ("DCM").

It was unanimously RESOLVED that Richard Dennis and Peter Warren be elected members of the VHMC.

The VHMC now comprised: Bob Brace, Jenny Goldby, John Popple, Irene Purse and Richard Dennis as HCRA members, Peter Warren as DCM and Andy Wheldon, Richard White and David Ridgwell as ex-officio members. Subject to his agreement, it was intended to appoint Nigel Lane a District Community Member at the next VHMC meeting.

## 3. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012

The meeting considered the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

Richard White noted that, as the Charity's income had exceeded £25,000, Charity Commission rules meant that the accounts were subject to independent examination. Robert Masters of RMCA Chartered Accountants in Tring had agreed to act as Independent Examiner and had undertaken a review of the accounts.

The Report and Accounts for the year were in a format laid down by the Charity Commission and comprised four sections: the Trustees' Annual Report ('TAR'); the Independent Examiner's report; the Accounts; and Notes to the Accounts.

The TAR set out a summary of the structure and governance of the Charity and the management of the Hall. It also summarised the objectives set out in the Governing Trusts. Most of the matters contained in the TAR had been discussed in the Chairman's report.

The Accounts showed that income had increased from around £9,100 in 2010/11 to some £113,000 in the year under review. The increase was due to grants received from the Leader Fund, the Big Lottery Fund, Tring and Hertfordshire local authorities, the Rothschild Foundation and elsewhere, and to donations from local residents and the HCRA, as set out in Note 3 to the Accounts. In a quirk of the relevant accounting rules (the Charities SORP), the grant from Leader was included in full in the period, though most of the work has been carried out after 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The bulk of the £34,000 of costs incurred in the year under review related to the restoration of the kitchen.

The net increase in reserves of £79,000 would be used to fund the restoration of the main hall and outside areas.

The bulk of the Charity's assets were cash or debtors, the latter including the £50,000 Leader grant.

As previously, no asset value was attributed to the Hall owing to Lord Rothschild's option under the Trust Deed, in the event of sale, to purchase it for a sum equal to the costs of "improvements". Improvement costs to date had been minimal. Also as previously, no member of the VHMC had been paid to act in that capacity.

Irene Purse proposed, Ritva Lane seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to  $30^{th}$  April 2012 be hereby approved and adopted.

### 4. Closure

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

#### Chairman