

HASTOE VILLAGE HALL TRUST

Charity no. 1121061

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Hastoe Village Hall on
Tuesday 1st October 2013 at 8.00pm**

Present : **Trustees:** David Ridgwell (in the Chair)
 Richard Dennis (Hon. Secretary & Treasurer)
 Nigel Purse
 Andrew Wheldon
 Committee: John Popple
 Irene Purse
 In Attendance: Penelope Ridgwell & Caroline Wheldon

Apologies for absence were received from Bob Brace, Alan & Sandra Freeman, Nigel & Ritva Lane and Richard White.

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:

- It was some five years since the deed constituting the Trust had come to light, leading to the formation of the Residents' Association to pursue the village's interest in the Hall. This meeting now took place in a restored village hall re-opened in November 2012 by Jacob, Lord Rothschild, the great-grandson of Emma, Lady Rothschild, who had endowed the Hall in the 1890s. The works of the fund-raising subcommittee and the project team deserved everyone's thanks.
- During 2013 the Management Committee had lost the services of Nigel Lane, Peter Warren and lately Jenny Goldby; Richard White had retired as a trustee but was kindly continuing to maintain the Trust's accounts. The Chairman himself was retiring at the conclusion of the present meeting. However he was pleased to welcome Richard Dennis and Nigel Purse, who had accepted appointment as trustees.
- The Trust had to fulfil two functions: first, in accordance with the terms of the trust deed, it must secure "the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Hastoe and the surrounding district"; and secondly it must raise sufficient funds to meet the £20,000 overhang of restoration costs and to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of the hall. No-one wished villagers to be excluded from the Hall as they had been five years ago and it was therefore vital that it was utilised by the community as well as by those in search of a high quality venue for parties and corporate events. The Chairman was confident that the ongoing Management Committee would distinguish between the end and the means.

2. Village Hall Management Committee

The Chairman noted that, in accordance with rules set out in the Trust Deed, Bob Brace and John Popple were retiring by rotation from the Committee. Both were willing to stand for re-election and notice had been given of their nomination.

David Ridgwell proposed, Irene Purse seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED that Bob Brace and John Popple be hereby elected members of the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Committee would now comprise: Bob Brace, John Popple and Irene Purse as Residents' Association members; and Richard Dennis, Nigel Purse and Andy Wheldon as ex-officio members. At present there were vacancies for three District Community Members of the Committee as well as for two Residents' Association representatives.

3. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30th April 2012

The meeting considered the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year to 30th April 2013.

The Charity's income had exceeded £25,000 and Charity Commission rules meant that the accounts were subject to independent examination. Robert Masters of RMCA Chartered Accountants in Tring had again agreed to act without charge 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.

The Accounts showed income for the year under review lower than the previous year's as no grants had been received. The main source had been *The Time of your Life Ball* which had raised over £32,000; hire income had been almost £3,000 despite the Hall's lengthy closure.

Restoration costs had amounted to £141,500, of which £73,000 had been charged to expenditure and £68,500, being the costs of car-park groundwork, the disabled toilet and new chairs, had been capitalised as fixed assets and would be depreciated over ten years. Other expenditure comprised depreciation of £7,000 and Hall running costs of £3,500.

Owing to restoration costs, the Charity's cash balance had reduced compared with the previous year. Current and longer term liabilities reflected primarily amounts owing on restoration works that were not subject to the Leader Fund grant of £50,000 received during the year under review.

John Pople proposed, Irene Purse seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED that the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th April 2013 be hereby approved and adopted.

4. Bookings

AW reported that bookings for the Hall remained encouraging with three weddings confirmed over the past three days, bringing the total to seven; in order to discharge the outstanding debt within the next two years, it was necessary to host some 15 major annual events. The Marketing Subcommittee had worked hard to promote the Hall through widespread advertising and this was now bearing fruit.

Various music groups had performed at the Hall during the current year and repeat bookings were already in place for 2014.

5. Vote of Thanks

AW proposed a vote of thanks to David Ridgwell, for his considerable input and commitment to the Hall project over the past five years. Had the retiring Chairman not discovered the existence of the Trust Deed, the restoration project would not have taken place.

6. Closure

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

Chairman