

Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust  
AGM 2nd September 2024 at 8.00pm

Present: Jonathan Birch –Chairman  
Karen Coningsby - Secretary  
Steve Coningsby, & Claire Hale  
Gabby Van Poortvliet

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies from Marine Boulter, Peter Haselden, Lee Ginger and Steve Argent.

3. **Chair's Report**

This current Chair's report will reflect the last 12 months of activity for Whaddon Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust (WVHRGT, the Trust).

At the last AGM we had the resignation of Anita Birch as Chair and from the Management Committee. The committee would like to thank Anita for her hard work and commitment as chair to guide us through the COVID period, which was incredibly difficult and stressful.

Paula Tucker resigned also from the Management Committee. We would like to thank Paula for her work whilst a member of the Management Committee.

The current Management Committee consists of:

6 elected members  
3 appointed members  
and may include not more than  
3 co-opted members

We do now have one vacancy on the Management Committee, which I propose we will advertise post the AGM.

The Trustees also agreed to Vest with the Official Custodian, as was identified within the original Deed. Work to complete this is still ongoing. There will be a focus on changing this in the next six months.

After the crippling increase in energy costs, we have been able to reduce these by adopting a fix rate contract. There is however, the prospect of increased costs post October, of which we need to remain mindful. To assist in keeping costs down and to improve the environmental

performance of the Village Hall, we are investigating the installation of solar panels and batteries. We have three quotations and are now looking at grants to assist in funding this project. Subject to funding we would hope to undertake the installations by Q2 2025. The Chair would like to thank David Grech for his support in this process.

From a usage perspective of the Village Hall, this has remained stable over the last twelve months. The regular groups are:

- Knit and Natter
- Table Tennis
- Coffee Morning
- Royston Model Railway Club
- South Cambs Dog Training Club
- Yoga
- Pilates
- Royston Motorcycle Club

On top of this there have been several bookings for parties and also a wedding.

Whitsun was once again celebrated in the village and the hall played host to the Folk evening' much dancing and merriment ensued.

This summer has also saw the second Whaddon Village Fete, held on Saturday July 13th. It was a great afternoon which was well attended including many people from outside of the village. The feedback has been extremely positive. The Management Committee would like thank everyone that organised, helped on the day, or attended the event. The Trust are in receipt of a very generous donation from profits that were split between ourselves and St Mary's Church.

Following our Annual Rospa Inspection, the hall has had remedial work carried out to the playground and its equipment. This should see all equipment in a healthy state for the future. We do however need to consider the age of the play equipment and remain mindful of repair costs moving forward. As a Trust we need to consider possibly the addition or replacement of play equipment/outside gym, in the future.

From a maintenance of the Village Hall perspective. We have had the eaves repainted. David Grech has undertaken a review of the state of repair of the Village Hall. This identified the issue with cracks on the South East corner of the Village Hall. This has been investigated and is it not a subsidence issue but will need repair. This will be needed to be completed over the next 12 months. There are no other issues that need immediate focus.

We are truly grateful to Jonathan Burgess, our village handyman, who continues to provide a great service for the hall and recreation ground undertaking remedial work.

As a Management Committee we have updated and created operating procedures to be in line with the requirements of Village Halls and Charities using guidance from Cambridge Acre. Members of the Committee have also attended seminars on Safe Guarding and Trustee Responsibilities.

Now that we are post COVID we will move the AGM back to May. The next AGM will be May 2025.

As Chair, I would finally like to give thanks to all of the Management Committee both present and past, for all of their hard work and dedication to our community. The work behind the scenes is not insubstantial and comes along with its own weight of responsibility, so I am very grateful to all that give their time, energy and dedication.

4. **Resignation of Trustees and the re-elections**

All Trustee are willing to stand again.

All have filled in Trustee forms except Steve Argent, Marnie Boulter & Peter Haselden

5. **Treasurer's report** - Peter Haselden take over as Vice Chair

£13,000 revenue

£11,000 lettings

Parish Council will give a grant of £1600 for insurance but this will go down over 3 yrs.

6. **Declaration changes/Trust change**

No declaration changes

7. **Hire Charges**

No changes to hire fees.

8. **Elections of officers**

Chairman – Jonathan Birch

Vice-Chairman – Peter Haselden

Secretary – Karen Coningsby

Treasurer – Peter Haselden

All agreed unanimously to the office held.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm