

**ROCK VILLAGE HALL AND MILLENNIUM GREEN  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Friday 25th October 2019, 7.30pm at the Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** 36, including 16 committee members.

**Opening remarks/ welcome:**

The chairman, Bob Marriott, welcomed all attending.

**Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Ian and Bernie Wilson and Henk Buzink

**Minutes from previous year's AGM:**

These were read by all present and accepted by the meeting as a true record (proposed by Kath Thornton and seconded by Lesley Hall and approved unanimously).

**Matters Arising:**

There were none.

**Secretary's Report:**

The secretary, Richard Hall, had prepared a report, as outlined below, on matters of significance during the year and presented it to the meeting:-

**The committee**

The committee has 20 members\*. There have been 11 monthly meetings in the last year, as we do not have a meeting in December. The monthly meetings have, on average, been attended by 15 members or 75% of the membership, compared with 66.9% last year. Ian Wilson served as chairman up to March when he resigned for personal reasons and was replaced by Bob Marriott. Barry Merchant has served as treasurer and Richard Hall as secretary.

**Events held since the 2018 AGM**

November Shoo Shoo Baby cabaret evening and Bingo night, organised by Necia Hall and Fran Cratchley respectively

December Children's Christmas Party, organised by Fran Cratchley

March Quiz night, organised by Keith Brown, Jazz concert organised by Len Pitman and Stompin Dave, singer/entertainer, organised by David Griffiths.

June Picnic on the Green, organised by Bob Marriott

August Rock Show, organised by the committee

September Bingo night, organised by Fran Cratchley

Regular users of the hall include the bridge club, the Women's Institute, short mat bowls, knit and natter, pilates, yoga, dance groups and the Little Acorns toddlers' play group.

**Village Hall website and Facebook page**

The website [www.rockvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rockvillagehall.co.uk) continues to be well used, allowing everyone to see what events are on and when the hall is available to be booked as well as hosting useful local adverts. The Facebook page is also a useful source of information.

**Maintenance and repairs**

Building sub-committee members David Hall, Richard Hall, David Griffiths, Ian Wilson and Robert Blowing have continued organising and carrying out routine maintenance and improvements. As has been publicised the hall will be closed from 28<sup>th</sup> October to March 2020 for contractors to carry out long-awaited major repairs to the ground floor, which has been subject to settlement. Any questions on this can be put to sub-committee members.

*\*The current committee members are:- Sally Blowing, Robert Blowing, Keith Brown, Henk Buzink, Fran Cratchley, Ann Emmings, David Griffiths, David Hall, Necia Hall, Richard Hall, Susan*

*Hopkins, Bob Marriott, Chris Marriott, Barry Merchant, Len Pitman, Peter Siviter, Kath Thornton, Ian Wilson, Ben Goater, Steve Wightman.*

Richard also thanked Carol Franklin, Chris Marriott and Bob Marriott for keeping the hall's website up-to-date, and thanked Sue and Barry Merchant for putting photographs and forthcoming event flyers on the hall's Facebook page.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

The treasurer, Barry Merchant, presented his report:

1. Many thanks again to Peter Bill who has examined the Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Village Hall. For the year to 30/9/19 they were found to be correct according to the Books and Records presented.
2. The main key indicators used to monitor the health of the hall's finances are shown on the trend sheets.
3. Comments: This year's figures have again been affected by outside factors. The hall received grants and paid out large sums for Rock Play which increased normal income and expenditure. We also benefited from some large donations notably from the estate of the late Sid Smith.
  - a. Hire – Income is still showing a slight downward trend and is the lowest for the last four years. Ignoring the period 2014/2015 when work on the hall floor was carried out, it's the lowest in the last seven years. However it still remains fairly healthy at almost £30k p.a..
  - b. General Running Costs – Last year's costs were high and this year's are much lower. If the two years are combined and averaged out, they come to £4.83k. This is in line with typical mean spending and indicates fluctuations are more about timing for claims rather than a significant upward trend.
  - c. Electricity – The missed Feed In Tariff (FIT) payment for 2018 was paid in this financial year. However the last payment for 2019 was again missed by Utility Warehouse due to a technicality. We've therefore had the correct number of payments this year but we're still owed one. The FIT payments for the year were the best to date. We currently generate twice as much in revenue as it costs to run the hall in terms of electricity.
  - d. Cleaning – Costs are down on the previous year. This is due to a change of Handyman and a gap in the hand over period.
  - e. Activities – Figures are up slightly due mainly to improved profits from Rock Show.
  - f. Income & Expenditure – Income continues to exceed expenditure (with the exception of 2014 which was due to the £40k cost for reinstatement of the hall floor).
  - g. Surplus – The surplus from Income over Expenditure has improved significantly over the previous year and is the best since 2012. However this is mainly due to the payment of the missed FIT instalment and donations. If the one off payment for donations were to be removed it would be comparable with the three years prior to 2018.
4. We currently have £114.7k at the bank of which we have ring-fenced a £35.2K contingency fund to cover repayment of Hire fees and Village Hall repairs from unforeseen problems. A number of improvements to the hall are scheduled for the coming year which will increase spending in the next financial period significantly.

The accounts were proposed for approval by David Hall, seconded by Keith Brown, and were unanimously approved.

### **Wildlife Group Report**

The chairman noted that the village hall and the Millennium Green are one charity. Kath Thornton presented a report on behalf of the Rock Millennium Wildlife Group which covers both the hall surroundings and the Green:

The group is small and new members would be very welcome. The overall aim is to enhance the appearance of the Green and to encourage diversity of species and suggestions on how to achieve this would be appreciated. The next working party is planned for 9<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am and all will be welcome to join in.

During this year more work has been done in the orchard corner, with the fruit trees doing well and producing lots of fruit. The area is only mown, by Bob, in the winter to allow wildflowers to develop in the spring and summer, including primroses. The hedge to the east and south sides, which was becoming too large, has been cut professionally on the outside and thanks are due to Len and others who cut the inside where a tractor cannot get access.

The wild flower borders along the drive have been poor previously due to being smothered by weeds. This year flowering annuals have been planted with some success using plug plants, all chosen to be good for pollinators and to have a long flowering season, About 25% of the area was planted by Robert Blowing using seeds and was successful although needing lots of weeding.

The Chairman thanked Kath for her report and the members of the Group for their work.

### **Chairman's Report**

The chairman, Bob Marriott, presented the following report:

I didn't expect to be here again as chairman but as Richard said I took over from Ian earlier in the year.

We have a great committee who all work hard in their own particular ways and therefore it is not hard to be chairman. However in the past I think it has been difficult to recruit a new chairman because of the feeling that once you are in the post you may be stuck with it for many years. This year therefore we have changed the rules. A chairman will be elected for one year only and at the same time we will elect his replacement so that no one will feel trapped in the post. We hope this will lead to more members of the committee agreeing to be chairman.

The hall continues to be successful with a number of regular users, and events put on by the committee. The village show continues to be a superb village event well attended by local people. The millennium green is a great facility for the village and Robert Blowing and Dave Griffiths have improved the goal posts for the children. The children's play area is regularly inspected by committee members and has an annual independent inspection to make sure everything is safe. We continue to insure the playground. Thanks to Henk who installed the table and seating.

The major job of the year has been organising the repairs to the hall with the insurance company. The work starts on Monday. Although paid for mainly by the insurance company this has been a huge undertaking and I would like to give special thanks to David Hall and the building team who worked so hard. Over the years we have found that performers do not like the stage. They feel it is too high and they feel it is unsafe. Many groups feel they like to be on the floor. As part of the repairs to the hall we have therefore decided to remove the stage. This will give us more floor space. If in the future we feel it necessary to have a stage for a particular event we will hire a stage.

Barry Merchant continues to do an excellent job as treasurer and I would like to say a few words about the finances.

We have about £115,000 in the bank and in the past there have been some adverse comments about the finances of the hall, such as why we keep such a big balance. About £35,000 of that is a contingency as noted by Barry, so our true balance is about £80,000.

We do have a lovely hall but it is expensive to maintain. The decking outside is wearing out, the wood is rotting and needs to be replaced. This will be done as part of the work going on over the winter but will have to be paid for by the village hall committee. This will cost £20-25,000.

This hall is heated by ground source energy and it is nice to always have a warm hall to come into. However the heat exchangers which produce this heat are wearing out and need replacing and this will be done after in the spring next year. This will cost about £20,000.

When all this work has been done over the winter and early next year and we have spent all this money we will look at our finances and consider any new improvements to the hall and the green. Projects which are under consideration are

1 A new modern sound system

2 Improving the sound quality in the hall by putting some sound insulation on the walls.

Also Sid Smith died during the year. Sid had always been a keen supporter of the hall, helping to run bingo sessions and caring for dogs before Pound the Bounds. He kindly bequeathed £5,000 to the village hall with a wish that it would be used to improve the access to the hall. He felt there should be some kind of lighting on the drive to help pedestrians walking to the hall in the dark. We are therefore looking at installing some kind of low level lighting to the drive and car park.

If there are any other improvements to the hall which anyone would like us to consider please let us know.

It would be difficult to mention each committee member individually and all the hard work they do but I would like to thank them all. It makes the chairman's job so much easier when he can have confidence that everyone is pulling their weight and can be relied on to get on and finish any project they have started. I trust we will have a successful and enjoyable time next year.

### **Election of Committee:**

The existing members as listed in the Secretary's report were willing to stand again. Jackie Douglas-Osborn proposed and Tina Brown seconded that all should be re-elected. The meeting agreed unanimously.

The chairman asked if anyone new wanted to join the committee but there were no volunteers.

Committee officers would be elected at the next monthly Committee Meeting on 28th October 2019.

### **Future Events**

During the closure of the hall from October to March 2020 there will be no events at the hall but the Children's Christmas Party will be held at Clows Top hall. The following events planned for next year were noted:

- Hall re-opening event (disco) on 25 April
- Picnic on the Green on 20 June
- Social (Greek night), date to be fixed
- Rock Show 2020 on 5 September

In addition the hall will host the Midlands Air Ambulance Pound the Bounds on 3 May and later in the year there will be regular quiz, bingo, children's parties and other events, which will be publicised on the hall website, on Facebook, and locally including in the Rock and District News.

### **Any Other Business:**

Rosemary Winnall commented on the entomology conference held at the hall each year for about 100 people. It is a wonderful venue appreciated by the attendees, but she asked if a sound system is likely to be installed as the group has to hire one each year. Also a drop down screen to project on to would be very useful. The committee would look into these items. David Hall commented that if equipment is only used occasionally it may be cheaper to hire it.

Lesley Hall asked if drainage of the area with the play equipment could be improved; after each spell of rain it becomes muddy and potentially dangerously slippery. This is already under consideration.

Colin Mc Murray asked what is proposed for the replacement decking. David Hall said that a composite material is likely to avoid the problem of rotting affecting the existing decking. This is likely to be done by the floor contractor as additional work paid by the hall.

David Hackney noted that the Pensax village hall is closing shortly so the thrift shop which has been held there each Wednesday morning for the last 45 years will also have to close. Could it be restarted at Rock village hall? Bob Marriott commented that if any Pensax people want to approach the Rock committee this could be considered, although there could be problems with finding a suitable time slot (as the hall is well used) and in finding space to store donated goods for sale.

David Griffiths asked about support to village people for using the hall. Bob Marriott said that villagers get a 35% discount on hire charges if they want to put on private functions. Also if they want to put on a community event there will be no hire charge and the committee will consider making good any financial loss arising.

**Next year's AGM:** The date and venue of next year's AGM has yet to be confirmed.

The formal meeting closed at 8.20 pm, and was followed by refreshments and socialising.

Financial reports as issued at the meeting to be attached.

## ROCK VILLAGE HALL


### RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30/9/18

YEAR TO 30/09/2017	ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS	RECEIPTS (£)	PAYMENTS (£)	NETT RECEIPT (£)
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
2128.57	2016-2017 Activities	2232.41		
33182.90	Hire of Hall	31552.95		
60.00	Donations	0.00		
8.22	Barclays Bank Interest	113.58		
810.00	Website Advertising	675.00		
45.00	Represented Cheques	0.00		
6467.62	PV Panel feedin Tariff	4937.87		
52.25	Insurers Trust Acc - Refund	0.00		
27.59	Bowls Club Insurance	29.30		
42782.15		39541.11		
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
1356.34	2016 & 2017 WFDC Non Domestic Rates		719.78	
156.00	Website Costs		317.99	
4688.79	General Running Costs		5402.78	
6043.55	Cleaning/Caretaker/Handyman/Etc		6448.80	
1873.50	Activities & Events Costs		1869.92	
3295.18	Electricity		3657.48	
274.14	Water		85.62	
251.88	BT - Telephone rental		206.49	
2459.96	Insurance (Hall & Green)		2447.33	
145.00	Returned Cheques		750.00	
2345.00	Returned Deposits & Cancellations		3251.50	
0.00	Rock Play		1675.23	
5866.97	Maintenance Expenses		7384.61	
23.16	Mobile Phone		20.00	
1779.80	Village Green (Trees & Hedge Cutting)		2195.50	
30559.27			36433.03	
12222.88	<b>Total Receipts Less Payments</b>			3108.08
				Plus
92375.63	Balance @ 30 September 2017			92375.63
	<b>Balance @ 30 September 2018</b>			<b>95483.71</b>
	<b>Represented by:-</b>			
24448.41	Community Current Account			27442.91
32887.82	Business Premium Account			32942.82
35039.40	Business Premium Account (Contingency)			35097.98
92375.63	<b>Balance @ 30 September 2018</b>			<b>95483.71</b>

#### Receipts and Payments Carried forward into next accounting period (2018-2019)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RECEIPTS (£)	PAYMENTS (£)	COMMENT
05/09/2018	Electrical Work (101915)		635.00	
16/09/2018	Rock Play Plaque (101919)		23.40	
19/09/2018	Wedding Cancellation (101922)		700.00	
24/09/2018	Village Hall Expenses (101923)		62.05	
24/09/2018	Rock Show Expenses (101925)		19.34	
27/09/2018	Playground 2nd installment (101927)		11620.76	
27/09/2018	Village Hall Expenses (101928)		324.00	
27/09/2018	Electrical Work (101929)		280.00	

*I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30/9/18 and found it is correct according to the Books and Records of Rock Village Hall and the information and explanations given to me.*

Peter Bill   
 Bower Court, Rock, Worcs  
 Date 04.11.18

# ROCK VILLAGE HALL

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30/9/18

YEAR TO 30/09/2017	ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS	RECEIPTS (£)	PAYMENTS (£)	NETT RECEIPT (£)
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
2128.57	2016-2017 Activities	2232.41		
33182.90	Hire of Hall	31552.95		
60.00	Donations	0.00		
8.22	Barclays Bank Interest	113.58		
810.00	Website Advertising	675.00		
45.00	Represented Cheques	0.00		
6467.62	PV Panel feedin Tariff	4937.87		
52.25	Insurers Trust Acc - Refund	0.00		
27.59	Bowls Club Insurance	29.30		
42782.15		39541.11		
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
1356.34	2016 & 2017 WFDC Non Domestic Rates		719.78	
156.00	Website Costs		317.99	
4688.79	General Running Costs		5402.78	
6043.55	Cleaning/Caretaker/Handyman/Etc		6448.80	
1873.50	Activities & Events Costs		1869.92	
3295.18	Electricity		3657.48	
274.14	Water		85.62	
251.88	BT - Telephone rental		206.49	
2459.96	Insurance (Hall & Green)		2447.33	
145.00	Returned Cheques		750.00	
2345.00	Returned Deposits & Cancellations		3251.50	
0.00	Rock Play		1675.23	
5866.97	Maintenance Expenses		7384.61	
23.16	Mobile Phone		20.00	
1779.80	Village Green (Trees & Hedge Cutting)		2195.50	
30559.27			36433.03	
12222.88	<b>Total Receipts Less Payments</b>			3108.08
				Plus
92375.63	Balance @ 30 September 2017			92375.63
	<b>Balance @ 30 September 2018</b>			<b>95483.71</b>
	<b>Represented by:-</b>			
24448.41	Community Current Account			27442.91
32887.82	Business Premium Account			32942.82
35039.40	Business Premium Account (Contingency)			35097.98
92375.63	<b>Balance @ 30 September 2018</b>			<b>95483.71</b>

### Receipts and Payments Carried forward into next accounting period (2018-2019)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RECEIPTS (£)	PAYMENTS (£)	COMMENT
05/09/2018	Electrical Work (101915)		635.00	
16/09/2018	Rock Play Plaque (101919)		23.40	
19/09/2018	Wedding Cancellation (101922)		700.00	
24/09/2018	Village Hall Expenses (101923)		62.05	
24/09/2018	Rock Show Expenses (101925)		19.34	
27/09/2018	Playground 2nd installment (101927)		11620.76	
27/09/2018	Village Hall Expenses (101928)		324.00	
27/09/2018	Electrical Work (101929)		280.00	

*I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30/9/18 and found it is correct according to the Books and Records of Rock Village Hall and the information and explanations given to me.*

Peter Bill  
Bower Court, Rock, Worcs  
Date 04.11.18