

Ferring Village Hall
Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting
Held on Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present

Trustees: Simon Cornish (Chairman); Bernadette Griffin (Secretary); Nigel Bubloz; Keith Cockram; Debbie Dilks and Carole Fordyce

Independent Examiner: Jane Crathern

Public attendees

Ruth Arnold (Ferring Parish Council)
Peter Coe (Ferring Conservation Group)
Wendy Dickens (Arun Art Society)
Marian Patterson (Ferring Gardening Club)
Brian Rolfe (Ferring Gardening Club)
Valerie Simpson (Ferring Retirement Club)
Roy Stevens (FADS)

Apologies

Trustees: Betty McCann; Beth Henton; Andrew Jackson; Tori Monroe and Lesley Young

Public: Simon Ash; Alan Fryar; Lilian Holdsworth; Nadine Phibbs and John Rayfield

Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present. The Chairman reminded those present that copies of the AGM documents, namely the agenda, accounts and previous minutes have been made available for view and download on the Ferring Village Hall website in advance of the meeting.

Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were taken as read, duly approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

Chairman's report

The Chairman reported as follows:

"Moving now to my report for the past year. 2023 was a year of growth for the Village Hall. We have increased our regular hirer base, and the number of hours that the hall is hired increased by 5% over 2022, even after accounting for closing the Main Hall for the month of August.

Income from hires in 2023 was up by 20% over 2022 due to both increased hire rates, and the increase in bookings.

Income so far in 2024 remains on par with 2023, due to strong regular hires, and more frequent private bookings.

New hirers that joined us in 2023 include the Slimming World group that meet on a Thursday morning, a fortnightly meditation group, and a fortnightly science discussion group.

The Griffin Room is still underused, so we will continue to work to promote this space – particularly to the business community, as it can be used as a fully functioning training room. During 2023, we have made a number of improvements to the hall.

The Solar Panels were installed in August, and we have just managed to get the logistics with our energy supplier sorted, so that any excess electricity we generate is returned to the grid, and our bills adjusted accordingly.

The ceiling of the Main Hall was insulated and plaster boarded during August – this makes a difference in the amount of time it takes to warm the hall up and keeps it warmer for longer. Our hot water boilers for handwashing and the kitchens have been changed from gas to electric – the theory being that they will be powered for free by the solar panels.

We've also finally got round to installing the bike rack in the car park.

In the Club Room, we have installed Bluetooth speakers.

Turning to the current year, our much publicised focus, funding permitting, is going to be the replacement of the flint wall surrounding our site on the south and west boundaries. We have so far raised just over half the money we need, and our fundraising efforts will continue to concentrate on this. Thanks go to all those who have contributed – details of our Call for the Wall progress can be found on our website.

We also need to replace the guttering around the whole building – it is a mish mash of various types and has numerous leaks and historical damage. We are aiming for this work to be completed in the late summer.

This year will see five events hosted by the Village Hall trustees – The Easter Market has already taken place, and we will be hosting 3 more - the July Festival, October Scarecrow festival, and the annual Christmas market. In addition, we are holding a special event to celebrate our centenary on Saturday 16th November. This day will consist of a morning of history talks, walks and displays concentrating on Ferring over the last 100 years, followed by an afternoon of entertainment. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for further information.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my fellow trustees. Without them giving their time, community resources such as this wouldn't be able to operate."

Simon Cornish – Chairman

There were no questions on the Chairman's report..

Presentation of the accounts

The Chairman presented the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023, which were displayed on screen. He confirmed that the accounts had been independently examined and approved by the trustees.

There were no questions.

Trustee resignations

Before moving to the formal resolutions, the Chairman advised those present that the Village Hall website AGM section included some brief trustee biographies. He also took the opportunity to mention a number of trustee changes: This year FVH has seen a couple of long standing trustees (**Richard Curtis** and **Rick Sims**) step down. The Chairman thanked both gentlemen for their long service and contribution to the running of the Village Hall. In addition, the Chairman advised that **Beth Henton**, appointed by co-option since the last AGM, had sadly been unable to continue as a trustee due to other commitments.

Trustee elections

Chairman

Simon Cornish (proposed by Valerie Simpson and seconded by Peter Coe) was re-elected as Trustee and Chairman by unanimous vote.

Secretary

The Chairman reported that Bernie Griffin would be stepping down as Secretary this year (although staying on as a trustee) and was pleased to advise that **Lesley Young**; the Bookings Secretary and trustee (appointed since the last AGM) had agreed to accept a nomination for the role and was seeking formal election today. The Chairman read the following statement from Lesley:

“Please accept my apologies for absence but I am currently on holiday in Japan. I am a retired secondary school Headteacher and a Ferring Parish Councillor and have lived in Ferring with my husband for 10 years. I am a mother of three grown-up children and a grandmother to three smaller children! Since I joined Ferring Village Hall as a Trustee in September 2023 as Bookings Secretary I have really enjoyed being more involved in the Village Hall activities, meeting and liaising with one-off and regular hirers and being part of a great team of Trustees. I would very much like to continue to be a Trustee and to expand my duties to include the role of Secretary alongside being Bookings Secretary and have the commitment and capacity to do so. Thank you for your consideration.”

Lesley Young (proposed by Ruth Arnold and seconded by Jane Crathern) was elected as trustee and Secretary by unanimous vote.

Treasurer

Betty McCann (proposed by Valerie Simpson and seconded by Ruth Arnold) was re-elected as trustee and Treasurer by unanimous vote.

Trustees for re-election

Keith Cockram, Debbie Dilks, Carole Fordyce, Bernadette Griffin, Andrew Jackson and Tori Monroe (proposed by Ruth Arnold and seconded by Peter Coe) were re-elected *en bloc* as trustees by unanimous vote.

Trustees appointed since the last AGM

The Chairman reported that, since the 2023 AGM, the Village Hall had been fortunate to co-opt Lesley Young, referred to earlier, and Nigel Bubloz as new trustees. Nigel was offering himself for election today. On addressing those present, Nigel confirmed that he had taken over maintenance responsibilities following Richard Curtis' resignation as a trustee in late 2023 and that he took great pride in dealing with maintenance problems without spending too much money.

Nigel Bubloz (proposed by Roy Stevens and seconded by Valerie Simpson) was elected as a trustee by unanimous vote.

Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Chairman reported that **Jane Crathern** had confirmed her willingness to continue as Ferring Village Hall's Independent Examiner. The Chairman explained that the appointment of the Independent Examiner could only be confirmed by a vote of the trustees. Those trustees present confirmed Jane Crathern's continuing appointment unanimously on a show of hands.

Any other business

Replacement wall – Ruth Arnold asked about the timing for the wall works. The Chairman said that he hoped the works could commence later this year but there remained a shortfall in terms of the costs. The fundraising campaign had raised around 50% of the anticipated costs. Accordingly, the trustees would need to consider whether the balance could be met from reserves. This would be considered at the next trustee meeting in July.

Closure

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm

Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 21 May 2025