

**Ferring Village Hall**  
**Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 7.00pm**

**Present**

**Trustees:** Simon Cornish (Chairman); Lesley Young (Secretary); Betty McCann (Treasurer); Keith Cockram; Debbie Dilks; Carole Fordyce; John Gough; Andrew Jackson; Tori Monroe

**Public attendees**

Ruth Arnold (Ferring Parish Council)  
Patricia Attree (FADS)  
Roger Elkins (Ferring Parish Council; Arun District Council; West Sussex County Council)  
Christine Elkins (Regular Hirer)  
Marian Patterson (Ferring Gardening Club)  
Brian Rolfe (Ferring Gardening Club)  
Valerie Simpson (Ferring Retirement Club)  
Roy Watson (Resident)

**Apologies**

**Trustees:** Nigel Bubloz; Andy Player

**Public:** Jane Crathern (Independent Examiner); Portia Gibson; Wendy Dickens

**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 2024 AGM**

The minutes of the 2024 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. The growth in both hire income and occupancy rates that we saw in 2023 has been maintained and slightly increased in 2024, and 2025 looks as though it will continue that stable trend.*

*Our total income for the year 2024 is quite a bit higher than normal, but this is due to donations we have received, mainly for the wall. Our hire income has risen by 10% to just over £50,000, and our running costs have decreased slightly in the year mainly in the area of energy costs. Our "surplus" for the year (excluding all the "noise" for the wall) stands at about £10,000.*

*We lost the regular weekly Village Market at the end of July 2024 but have managed to fill some of the lost hire time with a regular weekly fitness class. We also have another couple of new fitness classes – Yoga and Tai Chi, and one of our regular fitness instructors has added a couple of new classes to her schedule. Since December, we have been the new home for Worthing Silver Band who rehearse in the Main Hall every Wednesday evening and will also be holding their Spring Concert here in a couple of weeks' time.*

*The Griffin Room is still underused, and we will continue to work to promote this space – particularly to the business community as it can be used as a fully equipped training room.*

*During 2024, we have made a few improvements to the hall.*

*New guttering and fascia boards were installed all around our buildings, and the old flint wall has now been replaced.*

*Our focus for 2025 is the refurbishment of the Main Hall toilets. The order has been placed, and the work will start at the end of July.*

*This year the Village Hall Trustees will be holding craft markets in the summer and at Christmas, in addition to our collaboration with the Parish Council to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day just this past weekend. Please keep an eye on our website and social media for further information.*

*We are also one of the organisations that host the regular monthly SASPI (Sunday Afternoon Social Pop In) events at the Glebelands Centre. We will be hosting these events on 1<sup>st</sup> June, and 7<sup>th</sup> December.*

*I would lastly like to pay tribute to my fellow trustees. This year we have seen a couple of long-standing trustees step down, and we have recruited several new trustees who have fitted in well. Without them giving their time, community resources such as this wouldn't be able to operate.*

*Are there any questions?*

**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 2024. 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 took the opportunity to mention two Trustee changes. This year **Bernie Griffin**, a long-standing Trustee, has decided to step

down due to other commitments and resigned as a Trustee in January. The Chairman thanked her for her long service and contribution to the running of the Village Hall.

The Chairman also thanked **Andrew Jackson** for his service to the Village Hall as a Trustee and informed those present that Andrew has decided that he needs to step down as a Trustee at this year's AGM due to other commitments – particularly the ongoing success of the newly-formed 'Men in Sheds' initiative.

### Trustee elections

#### Chairman

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

#### Secretary

**Lesley Young** Bookings Secretary and Trustee (proposed by Patricia Attree and seconded by Marian Patterson) was re-elected as Trustee and Secretary by unanimous vote.

#### Treasurer

**Betty McCann** (proposed by Ruth Arnold and seconded by Roger Elkins) was re-elected as Trustee and Treasurer by unanimous vote.

#### Trustees for re-election

**Nigel Bubloz, Keith Cockram, Debbie Dilks, Carole Fordyce and Tori Monroe** (proposed by Patricia Attree and seconded by Valerie Simpson) were re-elected *en bloc* as trustees by unanimous vote.

#### Trustees appointed since the last AGM

The Chairman reported that, since the 2024 AGM, and as previously mentioned, the Village Hall had been fortunate to co-opt John Gough and Andy Player as new trustees, and they were both offering themselves for election today. The Chairman gave a brief biography of John and Andy for the benefit of those present.

**John Gough** (proposed by Ruth Arnold and seconded by Valerie Simpson) was elected as a trustee by unanimous vote.

**Andy Player** (proposed by Patricia Attree and seconded by Marian Patterson) 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

- 1) **Patricia Attree** expressed her thanks and congratulations to the Village Hall Trustees and Ferring Parish Council for the successful and enjoyable VE Celebration Tea Party held on Saturday 3 May 2025.
- 2) **Marian Patterson** raised the ongoing issue of water ingress into the noticeboard affecting the notices displayed in the outdoor noticeboards including the disintegration of the backing inside these. The Chairman confirmed that this is caused, not by any leak, but by condensation and at an approximate cost of £1,000 per noticeboard (and there are nine noticeboards in total), the cost was prohibitive. However, the Chairman undertook to look again at the problem to see if it was possible to improve the situation.
- 3) **Roger Elkins** asked that it be minuted that he believed that the Chairman had “transformed the Village Hall”, noting that “things have changed for the better” and citing the fundraising drive for the new wall as an example which was worthy of note. Roger recorded his congratulations and personal thanks to the Chairman.

#### **Closure**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.12pm

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 5 May 2026