Wreningham Village Hall Management Committee

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 26 November 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Sue Pink, Nick Pink, Janet Richardson, Andrea Tancred, Jennie Schamp, Keith O'Neill, Heather Bond, Jon Carpenter, Ian & Kim Priestley, Val Keel, Christine Minns, Cathy & Mason Paul, Pat & David Tinsley, Michael Hill, Jean Lambourne, Sue & John Knight, Sue & Mick Ryder, Keith Morris, Trevor Wadlow, Karen Nunn,

Sue Pink welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the committee.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2024

As the minutes were on the Village Hall website, Sue Pink suggested they be agreed as correct.

2. Matters Arising

None other than in the Agenda.

3. Chair's Report

Sue Pink said that there have been several large items of expenditure during the past year: a new glass washer, hall polisher, ice maker, second hand iPad and Zettle reader. Stock value has reduced from £4,500 to £2,000. The cellar is in good condition, as verified by a beer supplier. A highlight of the year was the VE Day celebration. Sue Pink expressed her thanks to the catering team, and to Janet for running cocktail evenings. She thanked Mick & Sue Ryder for running the website and producing the Mardle. She said running the hall has been challenging. We were obliged to employ an accountant, as no one volunteered. Jennie Schamp is moving to Cumbria in the New Year, so we have another vacancy. Sue thanked Jennie for her work running Hallmaster and expressed her thanks to Janet, Andrea and Heather.

4. Treasurer's Report

Sue Pink said it has not been a good year financially - lettings were down (particularly following the death of Barry) and bar takings were down. Bar

wages have increased through minimum wage increases. Keith is salaried, admin costs have increased and equipment expenditure has been high. We need to increase income and reduce costs. The committee has been investigating solar panels to reduce electricity costs. We can manage on reserves for a year but we need more lettings. She urged those present to encourage friends and neighbours to make use of the hall. A team of volunteer bar staff is needed. Sue Pink said: It's your hall and we need you!

5. Questions and comments

Natalie Griffiths, who moved to the village a year ago, suggested taking a poll to find out what people want and suggested bingo, karate, weight watchers, clairvoyant night, comedy night, Halloween disco, tribute bands etc. and a film night for children with parents coming for a drink. She suggested the school could promote the village hall, with a poster on Facebook. Janet publicises events through social media and to other villages. Sue Pink said that other village halls are struggling too. Val Keel said it's difficult getting people to support events - there were only 6 tables at the last quiz.

Mason Paul thanked all the committee for their work but said it was evident that revenue from bookings is down a third. We need someone who hires the facility and has an existing following. Cathy Paul suggested holding an open day for outside events. Nick Pink said individual bookings are down too.

Kim Priestley said the village sign still says the bar is open Thursday and Fridays. She suggested the bar could open earlier, say 5pm.

Michael Hill, Chair of the Parish Council, said that the PC are the land owners, and they need to be assured solar panels won't affect the fabric of the village hall. He said a presentation needs to be made at a formal meeting. Andrea Tancred said one of the solar panel companies will do a presentation to the PC or village hall. John Knight asked if a survey has been done of the roof. Sue Pink responded that the solar panel companies would arrange a survey.

Christine Minns said she was approached by a potential hirer who wasn't IT literate. She has made a booking for 2027 but has been given a bill already. Jennie responded that payment would not be expected yet.

Kim Priestley suggested putting a poster of events in the Bird in Hand.

Michael Hill said we should advertise the positive and the benefit to the parish.

Mick Ryder suggested using the Zeffy system to set up a campaign.

6. Invitation to join the Committee

Nathalie Griffiths offered to join the Committee. With Jennie leaving, we need someone to take over the role of Bookings Secretary. Jennie said she was happy to continue until January when she leaves.

7. Any other business

Pat Tinsley said that Helen Withey had banged her head a couple of times on the cooker hood and Jean had too. She suggested a bright fluorescent strip could be attached to the cooker hood (Nick Pink has something suitable already). Jean Lambourne asked if a blind or a blackout could be put up at the side kitchen window for when the sun shines in brightly. Val Keel said she has found lights in the corridor have been left on. Sue Pink said they check regularly as hirers sometimes leave lights on.

The meeting ended at 8.42.