

SOUTHOE VILLAGE HALL



FOR THE COMMUNITY

Southoe Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Date: 1st December 2025

Time: 7.00 pm

Location: Southoe Village Hall, Southoe, Cambs, PE19 5YE

Committee Members in Attendance

Chair – Chris Faux

Secretary – Linda Ambrose

Treasurer – Ian Crawford

Trustee – Derek Ambrose

Trustee – Sue Crawford

Apologies from Non Attendee Committee Members

Scott Wells

Barry Butler

Aileen Porter

Additional Members of the AGM panel

Accountant

Call to Order:

Chair called meeting to order 7.00pm

Approval of Previous Minutes

Approval of the minutes objected to by a member of the public A as the minutes from 2025's AGM had not been circulated. Secretary agree the minutes will be uploaded onto to the Village Hall Website and approval done at the next AGM.

Introductions

Personal introductions were made by each member of the Committee

Trustees Report

Report was read out. Member of the public A requested a hard copy which the Chair will make available.

The report will be uploaded onto the Village Website

Matters Arising from Trustees Report

Member of the A stated the AGM was very late. The chair explained this was due to the ongoing building works.

Member of the public A stated that the village hall management committee are separate to the Trustees and stated some committee members are wearing up to '5 hats'. The chair replied stating this question had been asked many times before together with ownership of the land and building and a solicitor had been engaged due to the member of the public A not accepting the chairs, management committee and ACRE's replies. The chair stated this had cost the charity nearly £600 last year, which was one of the reasons why the budget for the railings was diminished. The chair stated that if the member of the public A wanted to pursue this any further they would need to engage via a solicitor, as the management committee could do nothing more to resolve the issue.

Member of the public B mentioned there was an issue with the village hall website. Chair thanked the member of the public for highlighting an issue and agreed to investigate.

Member of the public A believes the village hall cannot be extended as stated in the Deeds section 5. The member of the public A was asked to read the section and the chairman responded by stating he believed the member of the public A was misunderstanding its meaning.

Member of the public A asked if the Constitution had been updated since 2014 and if it had not then they were not officially removed from the

management committee even though, as the elected representative of the PC, they had resigned at a PC meeting earlier in the year, which was minuted. Member of the public A believed the constitution allowed them to continue, as they had not formally written to the management committee to say they were resigning. The secretary stated the Constitution was not the governing document for the Charity, the Deeds were, as these are the only registered document against the charity, at the Charity commission. Member of the public A continued to dispute this so the chairman asked for the committee to be formally contacted by email. This could then be clarified again by Lisa at ACRE.

Member of the public A stated that there were 3 people who refused to attend the AGM as they were 'grossly intimidated by the chair's dress' The chairman stated that the member of the public A had brought this up before in the PC meeting and been told there is no formal dress code for meetings. The chairman asked the member of the public A for the names of the 3 people who could not attend so he could speak with them. The member of the public A refused.

Member of the public B asked about the installation of the railings on the wall dividing the playground and the village hall as they believed it maybe a H&S issue. The chairman stated that yes they were due to be installed as soon as funds were available but part 1 of the project did not have enough funds left. One of the reason stated for this was the additional payment of a solicitor as stated above. Member of the public A also commented on why it had not been done as the landowner Savills had requested and was told by the chair that they were fully aware from the start of the project of Savills position and requirement as they were included in the email. A 1.2m railing needed to be installed to replace the dead hedge that had been removed. The chair stated that hopefully in the next 6 months this would be addressed as the village hall development was an ongoing project.

Member of the public C mentioned the application for an alcohol license that had been applied for and wanted to know the closing time. The secretary stated 22:30 last orders and 23:00 close.

Member of the public C asked about plastic of glass would be used as the new french doors lead onto the play area. The secretary stated plastic glasses would be used when certain events were accessing the playground but the environmental preference was for reusable glass within the hall. The alcohol would only be sold by village hall committee members as stated in the license. Member of the public A stated that some hirers maybe excluded due to the alcohol license. The secretary stated that the new Hirers agreement made it clear that bookings for the hall could be declined if there were any concerns about hirers.

Member of the public A raised several issues about the planning and the chairman explained all the issues raised had been dealt with by the village hall architect and the planning department at HDC and had all been resolved. If they had any further concerns they should be raised with HDC.

Member of the public D asked where the financing for the project had come from and the chairman stated the CCF windfarm grants.

Financial Report 2024/2025

Copies of the Accountants financial report were circulated. Helen was formally thanked.

Appointment of auditors

Gregory Wildman were formally asked to be the village Hall auditor for 2026. Helen accepted on their behalf.

Appointment Of Trustees

The Parish Council have formally appointed Scott Wells and Barry Butler as representatives to the Village Hall Committee. Member of the public A challenged this as they felt some members were wearing 'to many hats'

AOB

Member of the public E was very complimentary as to the new look Village Hall and the work that has been done to bring the hall up to a modern standard.

Member of the public E stated that they wanted the village to all work as one and all the 'fighting' to stop and the village to work together. The committee totally agreed, stating that this was never what they had wanted. they just wanted to make the village hall a more modern building. The chair asked member of the public A if he was not chair of the village hall and the PC would all this stop. Member of the public A stated 'possibly'.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

