

Minutes of the AGM of the Briantspuddle Village Hall, held on

22nd May 2025 at 7pm in the village hall, Briantspuddle

Present: 21 members of the community

1. **Welcome** by the Chairman, Stuart Chorley.
2. **Notice of conflicts of interest** – none reported.
3. **The minutes** of the AGM held on 22nd May 2024 were read by Stuart. The minutes omitted the fact that Stuart Chorley was re-elected as Chairman. With this addition, they were proposed by Fiona Hogger, seconded by Robert Beadle, to be a true record. They were duly signed by the chairman and passed without dissent. There were no matters arising.
4. **Annual Report:** The Chairman read his report (filed with these minutes). He thanked all the trustees, particularly Angela Tozer (hiring co-ordinator), Allan Smith (treasurer) who does a huge amount of extra work in addition to the financial matters, and Anne Colquhoun (secretary). All the usual events (Burns Night, Christmas Fayre, Open Gardens), had been successful. The open gardens in particular involved over 100 people who all worked as a team, and over £4700.00 was raised. It's a huge amount of work – the next one is planned for 2026. Hall hire rates are constantly reviewed but we are anxious not to lose existing, loyal, hirers. Representatives from regular groups are encouraged to join the hall committee. Progress is being made concerning the sustainability issue, with all lights now LED's, but the nature of the hall limits our options. There were no forthcoming questions.

5. **Treasurer's report**

Allan circulated the audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2024, together with a 9-year comparison. His report is also filed with these minutes. Hiring continues at a good level, especially music groups. Fundraising events did well – excellent result for the Open Gardens. Burns Night and Arts Reach produced approximately £800 each, and the Christmas Fayre £400. Expenses involved the wiring work for the LED lights (£2000+), the woodwork outside was painted (scaffolding required) £2500, and the fridge failed and had to be replaced (kindly supplied by the Community group). The reserve fund for re-thatching stands at £43,488 and the treasurer tries to supplement this by £2-3000 per year. Re-thatching costs are approximately £65,000 so a grant will be needed, but there should be between 10 and 15 years left in the thatch. Utility costs: Heating, lighting, and water costs have increased by approximately 5% but the treasurer has managed to keep the increase below inflation. Insurance costs increased dramatically last year. The kitchen hiring rates were increased, but are still very competitive, and the hall rates are very good. The hall is maintained to a high standard, and needs to be used – it is here for the benefit of the village. The annual spring clean is due; Allan will put up a notice asking for helpers. In response to a query from the Parish Council Chairman, Allan confirmed that the parish council donations are shown under "donations and grants".

Stuart thanked Allan on behalf of the trustees for all the work he undertakes for BVH.

6. **Election of committee members** – all members stand down at the AGM. Stuart Chorley, Tamsyn Tankard-Evans, Angela Tozer, and Allan Smith are all willing to stand again. Julia Bradbury has offered to join (unable to be here this evening). Additional trustees are always welcome. Jenny Lightfoot proposed, and Stella seconded that they be re-elected, and all were in favour. Nominated representatives: The following were happy to continue:

- Cindy Read – village shop
- Anne Colquhoun – Briantspuddle Singers
- Fiona Hogger – Parochial Church Council (second person always welcome)

Groups not represented on the committee. Representatives can join at any time during the year, and are encouraged to do so:

- Social Club.
- Parish Council
- The community group

7. AOB

- a) Jenny Beadle reported that the group of volunteers who help with the deep clean of the hall has gradually got smaller due to age, infirmity, etc, and the village hall committee must now find other volunteers, or employ a cleaning company. The chairman thanked Jenny and her helpers for all the assistance they had given over the years.
- b) David Neudegg, chair of the Parish Council, thanked the BVH committee for their work in looking after the hall which is a unique asset. More activities, more people, and fresh ideas are always needed.
- c) Peter Talbot reported a strong smell of kerosene from the current boiler. The boiler is old and its efficiency has dropped and it must be using more fuel. Stuart confirmed that these issues have been raised and we are guided by the professionals. Allan confirmed the engineer had been in and a new component fitted; he's due to return within the month and discussions will follow about a possible replacement that won't change the esthetics of the hall. To ensure continuity of hirers, it is important the hall is kept warm.
- d) Jenny Lightfoot commented that younger people have moved into the village and should be approached with a view to helping, or seeing if they would like additional groups (e.g. toddler/youth groups etc). People are loathe to volunteer, but often happy to help when asked. Perhaps a volunteers' register might be formed.
- e) Leonora asked if the Open Gardens is on the website for next year. It was suggested we wait a few weeks and put it on at the end of June. The deadline is September, when people start planning their gardens for the following year.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Anne Colquhoun
Hon Secretary