

SOUTH HEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 12 May 2014 at 8.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Roger Clayton (Bonfire Society representative), Sue Crosthwaite (Parish Council representative), Clare Dickins (Treasurer), Jerry Drury (Co-opted Committee member), Marie Helyar (WI representative), John Johnson (Chairman), Andrew Melling (Committee member), Roger Scarles (Committee member), Sophy Thorpe (Secretary).
1 member of the public was also present.

Apologies for absence: Geoff Knight (Co-opted Committee member), Tessa Pickstock (Committee member).

Minutes of last meeting Minutes of the last meeting on 13 May 2013 were available to read. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a true record.

Chairman's report, incl. finance Copies of the Balance Sheet and Income/Expenditure for the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 were available to read.

Welcome to everyone

The Chairman started the meeting by discussing some of the key events last year regarding the Village Hall and around the village in general.

July 2013 – Village Fete

The weather was kind to us this year so we were able to hold the fete on the field after 2 years of having to have the fete in the hall. For the first time in many years we decided to have a stab at running our own BBQ – this turned out to be very successful making us over £140 profit.

We had various individual stalls as well as the usual raffle, tombola, bar, coconuts etc with children's dancing, martial arts and dog agility displays in the arena.

Overall it was an enjoyable afternoon for all those attending and taking part and raised nearly £800 for the village hall.

August 2013 – Treasure Hunt

The annual treasure hunt went successfully again this year. This is not meant as a fundraiser, merely a fun social event organised by a few members just for fun. The group setting this year's treasure hunt was decided by drawing a 'winning' ticket from the hat.

November 2013 - Bonfire Night

The weather for the set up was heavy rain which was not ideal but thankfully it cleared up by the evening leaving us with the perfect bonfire weather.

We had various societies join us for the procession which proved to be a great crowd pleaser with many fantastic costumes. This year we had music from Pentacle drummers as usual and also from a new Brazilian band who provided music and dancing to entertain the crowd before the main procession arrived.

Our tableau this year was a giant dalek (in celebration of 50 years of Dr Who) which went up with an almighty bang and resulted in numerous bits of debris scattering themselves

over the field! Luckily the Parish Council (who were inspecting the field before and after the event due to issues in previous years) were more than happy with our clean up operation!

We made a very healthy profit of over £4000 which was up on the previous year. As usual a large chunk of this profit was down to the fund raising crew who give up their weekends throughout the summer to take the bonfire games to various fetes to raise money, so I would like to give special thanks to all of those people. I would also like to thank Roger Clayton (as the chairman of the society), the Police, Fire Brigade, St Johns Ambulance, NGP Events and Mick and Sophy who as usual did a grand job of organising the volunteers to man the gates.

December 2013 Father Christmas and Carols on the Green

Due to the disastrous weather the previous year we decided to set up Santa's grotto in the Guinness Trust hall. Although Santa proved popular the carols, mince pies and mulled wine didn't work as well as they have in past years on the green. The committee need to give this year's event some further thought.

Bingo

This year the bingo took a profit of around £600 which was up slightly on last year. We have seen an increase in the number of people attending this year so hopefully this will continue. This is a popular monthly event and has many regulars who have been coming for years and who thoroughly enjoy it – the committee is keen to make sure it continues for as long as possible.

Hire of Hall

This made £2600 this year which is up around £1000 on last year. This is a great result for the committee and it is encouraging to see the hall used more and more – long may it continue!

Improvements to the hall

One of the committee's greatest achievements this year was the completion of the replacement windows. This cost around £6000 but has been well worth it as it has made a huge improvement to the hall in terms of energy saving as well as the warmth and general comfort for all those using the hall.

We are hoping that this year we will have enough in the funds to replace all the fascias and soffits and possibly even refurbish the kitchen.

The committee works hard to keep the hall running as it is an important part of our community and we are hopeful for another successful year.

My thanks go to:

- **The Parish Council**, for their continued support and for use of the field.
- **My fellow officers**, for their dedication: Sophy Thorpe as secretary, Clare Dickins as treasurer and committee members Jerry Drury, Mel, Tessa Pickstock and Roger Scarles, and to all your families for their support.
- **Sue Crosthwaite, Marie Helyar and Roger Clayton** for representing the Parish Council, the WI and South Heighton Bonfire Society.
- **All the numerous people** who have helped us at various events through the year.

Open questions

There were no questions raised from the floor.

Sue Crosthwaite, on behalf South Heighton Parish Council, thanked the committee for its work. Marie Helyar, on behalf of South Heighton WI, also thanked the committee and said that the WI continued to be very happy using the hall for their meetings.

Election of committee

The Chairman asked if the present Committee members were prepared to stand again and all agreed. Sue Crosthwaite proposed the re-election of the Committee and this was seconded by Roger Clayton.

Other

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.