

# **SOUTH HEIGHTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

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## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 11 May 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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Present: Sue Crosthwaite (Co-opted Committee member), Clare Dickins (Treasurer), Pip McTiffen (Committee member), Roger Scarles (Chair), Sophy Thorpe (Secretary). No members of the public attended.

Apologies for absence: Louise Baxter (Committee member), Norah Bessant (Committee member), Gerry Hazell (Parish Council representative), Florence West (Bonfire Society representative).

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of last year's AGM held on 12 May 2025 were available to read. These were agreed as a true record.

Finance: The Village Hall Committee's 2025-2026 balance sheet and statement of accounts were available to read.

Chair's report: ***(Covering the period April 2025 - March 2026)***

*Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us at this year's AGM.*

### **Village Hall Improvements**

*Over the past year, we've made some significant improvements to the village hall. The concrete at the front of the building had begun to break up, so this was replaced, and we also installed new railings by the entrance to improve safety and accessibility. Inside the hall, we completed a full redecoration and had the curtains professionally cleaned to freshen up the space. We've also ordered a new shed replacement.*

### **Hall Hire**

*The hall continues to be a much-loved and well-used community asset and is particularly popular for children's parties. Last year, hire income brought in nearly £4,900 — around a 68% increase on last years income. I would like to thank Sophy for her continued work with managing these bookings.*

### **Bingo Nights**

*Attendance at our monthly bingo evenings has increased a little in the last year and we have seen a few new regular faces. Bingo raised just over £800 throughout the year.*

### **Jumble Sales**

*We held three jumble sales during the year and, together with private sales of donated items and the sale of excess clothing, we raised close to £1,700. These events bring in vital funds so thank you to everyone who donated, helped, and came along to support us.*

### **VE Day Fete**

*Although the fete wasn't officially organised by the village hall committee, all the committee members helped out at this very successful event, held at the hall in May to celebrate 80 years since VE Day. All profits raised were very generously donated to the village hall, amounting to nearly £1,000. A huge thank you to all the organisers and everyone who helped make the day such a success.*

### **South Heighton Bonfire Society (SHBS)**

*South Heighton Bonfire Society is a subcommittee of the village hall and is responsible for raising funds for our annual Bonfire Night.*

*Last year, the Society attended various fetes with their popular games, partnered with Borough Bonfire Society to host a race night, held a 'pirate party' at the village hall and hosted several pub quizzes. In addition, the Hampden Arms has a collection jar for SHBS. The society also charges a small fee to become a member.*

*Our Bonfire Night was held on 8th November 2025 and attracted approximately 3,500 people. It was a fantastic event — well-managed and well-attended. Thanks to all the hard work of the Society and volunteers, overall for the year we made a profit of over £5500!*

### **Sad news**

*We were very sad to lose a very longstanding village hall committee member this year. Jerry Drury is missed by us all and our thoughts are with his family*

### **A word of thanks**

*Finally, I'd like to express my thanks to my fellow committee members for their time, energy, and unwavering dedication. I'd also like to thank the family members and friends who so kindly support our efforts behind the scenes. Without all of you, none of this would be possible. The village hall is a vital community resource, and it's through your commitment that it continues to thrive. Thank you.*

### **Open questions:**

There were no questions raised from the floor as no members of the public were present.

### **Election of committee:**

#### **2026-2027 Committee**

The full Committee members who were present were asked if they were prepared to stand again and all agreed (proposer TP, seconder ST)

#### **Officers:**

Roger Scarles to remain as Chairman (proposer CD, seconder SC)

Sophy Thorpe to remain as Secretary (proposer TP, seconder pm)

Clare Dickins to remain as Treasurer (proposer ST, seconder RS)

#### **In summary:**

6 full committee members: Louise Baxter, Norah Bessant, Clare Dickins, Pip McTiffin, Roger Scarles, Sophy Thorpe

2 co-opted members: Sue Crosthwaite, Tessa Pickstock

3 representative members: South Heighton Bonfire Society: Florence West; South Heighton Parish Council: Gerry Hazell; WI: Andy Day

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.