Failand Village Hall Management Committee

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Minutes

18th November 2024 (19:30 – 19:45)

**Attendees (Committee):** Lorraine Green (Chair); Angie Sissons (Treasurer); Simon Williams (Secretary); John Chilcott; Liz Garfitt; Dwara Jepson; Jason Lamb; Simon Walrond; and Fi Harris.

**Attendees (Residents):** Paul Green; Chris Jepson; Rachel Jenkins, Phil Jones; and, Jeannette Lamb.

**Apologies (Committee only):** Marion Pearce.

1. **Minutes Of Previous Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

* AGM minutes from 20th November 2023 accepted (noting that they had provisionally been agreed at the Village Hall committee on 18th December 2023).

1. **Matters Arising**

* None

1. **Chairperson’s Report:**

“Good evening everyone, it’s good to see a few/so many faces here to celebrate another successful year at the Hall.

The Trustees are committed to maintain the condition of the hall and to improve its aesthetic appeal. This year we have undertaken work both indoors and out:

Let’s start indoors. Some things you will have noticed: the new curtains thanks to the help of our new trustee Marion Pearce and her colleague, the floor being repolished and the new non-slip vinyl. Less obvious, though is a new chilled room created to keep the beer and wine cool, a new soft drinks gun to cut down on the numbers of cans and bottles and their cost. We have very recently improved our Wi-Fi and even more importantly our sewage disposal hopefully no more blockages – My husband Paul doesn’t mind managing the bar, but he is less enthused by unblocking the toilets!!

Moving outdoors, using the money kindly donated by the Failand Society, we have had two murals which we think brightens up the entrance. We have another planter kindly built and donated by Dave Tyrer and planted up by Dwara Jepson and Rosemary Crosby. Thatchers kindly donated the ten apple trees you would have seen on at the front of the hall which in time will allow the children of the village to collect the apples and use them on Apple Day to make Apple juice – our very own field to table experience. We were lucky to receive £500 from Tesco and will utilise it in the Spring to add some educational information in the form of tabletop pictures and dialogue about the local fauna and flora.

The main objective of the Hall Trustees is to provide social facilities for the benefit of the Residents of Failand With this in mind, we continue to host local groups such as the Failand Tots, Arts and Crafts Group, Whist Club, Lower Failand Su. er Club and the Wine Tasting group at a much reduced hire rate. Each year we organise A Summer Fair, Apple Day, Christmas Quiz and Children’s Christmas Party and we have a monthly Friday Community Evening.

We would be happy to do more and want to increase the appeal of the hall to residents of both Failand and Lower Failand. To do this we need more feedback and more supporters. We are a very popular hall to hirers, but it appears less so to residents. If you are interested in supporting the hall, please speak to one of us. We are looking for a bookings co-ordinator more bar staff and general help around the hall and gardens. You do not need to become a Trustee you just need to be willing to spare some time to your Hall a community asset.

Currently our main objective for next year is to improve our audio/visual offering and to redecorate the hall and bar and to rethink the hall draw as support is dwindling. As I have said if you have any feedback we’d happily add to this list.

Lastly, I want to thank to those people who have supported the hall over the last year. Firstly the hall trustees who continue to work hard to help achieve the vision of the hall: Angie, Simon, Liz, Dwara, John, Jason, and Marion.

Fi Harris who continues to support us through organising fund-raising events and decorating the hall at significant times of the year.

Ruth Chapman, Irene Radnett, John Fairweather, Kate Pool, Sally Williams, John Chilcott, Dwara Jepson and Jason Lamb who delivered the hall newsletter. A big thank you Joyce Greenhalgh who has helped for many years and has recently stepped down. Also a big thankyou to Liz Garfitt who produces the newsletter.

The small team of volunteers who help staff the bar: Rita Murgatroyd, Jason Lamb, Duncan Roberts, John Chilcott, Marion Pearce, David Kershaw, Liz Garfitt, Tim Henderson and

Susan Roughton and Andrew Terry and not forgetting my husband Paul who ensures the bar is stocked and operating.

Thank yous also to Ed Sage who keeps our grass looking so good and Andy Savage who keeps the hall looking clean and presentable, Rob Jones to arranges the maintenance of the hedges and Alan Murray our DIY person who continues to help maintain the building.

Finally I want to give a massive thank you to Angie Sissons on behalf of the Trustees and the Village. She has been involved in the hall in one form or another since she moved here in 1978. Firstly, alongside her late husband Rob in the Drama Circle and then in 2010 joining the committee and 2011 was appointed Treasurer. So here we are 13 years later she is retiring as a Trustee and handing over the role of Treasurer to Simon Walrond. I personally don’t know how I would have coped in my role without her knowledge and guidance. I will miss our regular chats though I am sure she will not be allowed to retire quietly!

Thank you for your attention and later do enjoy a complimentary glass of your preferred beverage and remember your hall needs you.”

1. **Treasurers Report**

* Angie Sissons provided a copy of the “Report of the Trustees and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024 for Failand Village Hall” by
* R S Porter & Co Limited, Chartered Accountants.
* Angie that noted that the Village Hall had made a profit of circa £5.5K – and together with circa £15K spent on unusual items, there was an overall profit of over ££20K.
* There were no comments or questions on the accounts.

1. **Election of Officers & Committee Members**

* The following were elected as committee members – with voting completed by exception, and no comments or questions raised (except as noted below):
  + Treasurer – Simon Walrond
  + Secretary – Simon Williams
  + Committee Member – John Chilcott
  + Committee Member – Liz Garfitt
  + Committee Member – Lorraine Green
  + Committee Member – Dwara Jepson
  + Committee Member – Jason Lamb
  + Committee Member – Marion Peare
* Noted that the Committee vote for the Chairperson – and this will take place at the next Committee Meeting.

1. **Any Other Business**

* Simon Walrond (as new Treasurer) noted that Simon Williams had been removed as signatory for the Village Hall accounts and replaced by Liz Garfitt – to avoid out potential conflicts.
* Liz Garfitt noted, in reference to the chairperson’s report, that at least six teenagers have volunteered to support the Village Hall Children’s Christmas Party, and that this was a great example of how the Hall brings the community together.