**ALVERDISCOTT & HUNTSHAW**

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held on Thursday 16th May 2024**

**At Alverdiscott Community Hall at 7:00pm**

# **Those Present: Cllr Graham White (Chair of the Council and of this meeting. Other Councillors, Jim White, Caroline Lewis, Paul Matthews, Helen Bolton, Liz Meaney, Gill Ross**

**Also Present: Cllr Thomas Elliott (Torridge DC)**

**Alan Matthewman (Parish Clerk)**

* Apologies for Absence: Cllr B Hardwicke, Cllr R. Lock (Torridge DC) and Cllr L Hellyer (Devon CC)
* 1 member of the public.

Cllr G White opened the meeting and raised an issue put forward in an e-mail by councillor Lock challenging the inclusion on the Agenda of items concerning the accounting information for the the previous year. She felt that this was a matter for the council, not the parish meeting. The clerk confirmed that Cllr Lock had raised it with him concerning not only the current meeting, but those of the other meetings for which he was clerk. His own view was that the matters were not issues for debate at the meeting, but were matters of real interest to residents and in the interests of transparency belonged on the Agenda.

Cllr G White confirmed that income in the year just passed was £5245, being the precept requested for the year, whilst expenditure totalled £5840, the overspend being accounted for by the defibrillator acquisition and was drawn from reserves. The budget for 2024—25 has been agreed at a total of £6210 with a precept of £6400 including a full year of clerk’s salary, and provision for the introduction of a Road Warden’s scheme and election expenditure where the intention is to build an adequate reserve for the times when elections might be held.

There was a brief discussion on why the accounts were not publicly available in detail until June/July for a year which ended in March which was explained by the limited time resource available to the clerk and the time taken for Agar certification which followed statutory guidelines. Public availability of accountants took place at council meetings and at the Public availability period.

Liz White was unable to be at the meeting but had submitted a written report which the clerk read to the meeting (see Appendix A).

A report re Huntshaw Hall was read by Cllr Lewis (See Appendix B).

A report on the Local Rag was read by the editor Dave Potter. The year had been quite successful except insofar as the attempts by Dave and his wife, who had taken on the role 20 years ago as a temporary measure, to find new people to take on the role had proved totally unsuccessful. Various options had been considered, including a rotating editorial team, but this would have problems of continuity. The magazine itself was financially viable, although advertising revenue was not increasing in line with costs. They were fortunate and grateful to North Devon Council for printing and to the Parish Council for its annual grant which is essential to the maintenance of the magazine. He thanked all the volunteer distributors, Helen and Tony Goldstone for their specialised help.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7.25pm

Next meeting will precede the meeting of the Parish Council in May 2025, Probably on 15th at 7.00pm

Appendix A: Alverdiscott Hall Report 2024

**ALVERDISCOTT COMMUNITY HALL**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT January to December 2023**

I am pleased to report another successful year for Alverdiscott Hall

We held our usual programme of fund-raising events throughout the year. These were two quizzes, two Big Breakfasts, the Flower Show and the Harvest Supper. All were well attended and profitable.

We celebrated the King’s coronation on 7th May with a free event for the community. The 8th May was designated as the Big Help Out Day. A group of local residents and committee members worked hard cleaning the Hall and taking on other tidying up jobs around our community.

Bookings for the Hall throughout the year were steady with no major problems.

We spent quite a lot of money on repairs and equipment. The flat roof had been causing problems for some considerable time, so it was decided to have it replaced. This was done by a company who specialise in flat rooves. Despite this we have still had further problems where it joins the main Hall.

We have had new curtains fitted to the windows in the main hall. The old ones had provided good service but were rather faded.

We also purchased a new cooker and other catering equipment.

Money was also spent on a Memorial Garden. This is still work in progress but we have a paved area and a wooden bench, which will be moved into position and secured in the near future.

There have been ongoing problems with the metering of our electricity supply; as a result, we did not pay any bills in 2023. Our thanks must go to our Treasurer Graham for his persistence and perseverance in sorting this out. The issue was eventually passed to the Ombudsman and was finally resolved in the first quarter of 2024.

The Hall’s bank and cash balances at the end of the financial year stood at £15,400 so we continue to be in a very healthy financial position.

We are fortunate to have a good committee but we are all getting older and requests for more volunteers never receive any response. We will keep going for as long as we can – they will miss us when we give up!

Liz White - Chairman

May 2024

Appendix B: Huntshaw Hall Committee.

Annual Report to the Parish Council

16/5/24

A variety of events have been held throughout the year with variable attendance. Events included a soup lunch, a Coronation Tea (and a litter pick), a Harvest lunch and a Christmas party. Some events were free of charge to try to encourage greater participation. There is a small core group who attend most events and we are trying to increase that number.

The Hall was also used for private bookings including the XLinks consultation.

Going forward the committee are advertising events as ‘Village’ events, as most of the committee would be involved in helping at both Hall and Church events. This year they are looking to try some new things – a Village Breakfast was held recently and there are plans for a BBQ and Treasure Hunt, and a Race Night. Hopefully this will increase the number supporting events.

The committee would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

C Lewis (Treasurer) Huntshaw Hall committee