

Annual General Meeting Rowney Green Village Hall Management Committee

Monday 19th May 2025

Present:-

Trustees : Chris Gollings as chair, Mark Easter, Nan Fellows as treasurer, Andy Free, Sue Stevens, Tony Wallis & Karen Wild (park group), also Janet Corfield as minute taker.

Others: Annie Cowles (bookings), Tony Cowles (Maintenance), Will Savage & Dave Alcock (Fete)

Community Groups: Helene Dryhurst (RGPs), Jude McManus (ACE), Jill Wallice, Sandy Jenkinson & Richard Woodward (Park Group), Wendy Easter & Margaret Rollason (RGA)

Villagers: Mike Fellows, Chris Morgan, Gayle Stilwell, Mike Stilwell, Liz Ballard & Andy Ballard

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of last AGM:

Richard Woodward requested that the last line be amended as the funding for picnic benches and the removal of leylandii trees was not funded by the trustees. This was agreed. Amended minutes were proposed by Will Savage & seconded by Andy Free.

3. Chairman's report .

As Chair of the Trustees, I am pleased to report that the Hall and Park are in good financial health. The Park has successfully raised the funds required so far and will continue with fund raising activity. The hall is reliant on income from our bookings which are healthy. However, our regular expenses have risen and in particular, electricity bills jumped significantly to £1,500 to £2,000 per month during the coldest months. As a result, we are investing £11,000 in a new heating system to reduce our electricity costs and will be reviewing rents in line with inflation over the last 2 years.

Our community groups: Rowney Green Horticultural Society, Drama Clubs, Sassy Lassies, and ACE continue to use the hall.

The Goat and Trousers Community Bar and Coffee Shop are both well attended

and we owe a big thanks to all the volunteers who work in these community activities.

We also have commercial groups such as Pilates, Riopedre Dance Group, Toddlers Football and Adult Art Group.

We had our fireworks display, Fish and Chip Supper and Christmas Tree Light Up. It's great to see new faces attending these events. All these events depend on our volunteers and it would be great to see new people get involved. In addition, we dealt with the 5G mast application and subsequent unanimous vote against it.

We are fortunate to have the hall for the community as demonstrated by the role played during the Power Cut. The trustees, RGA and Alvechurch Parish Council are looking at how the hall could support the village in any future emergency.

We had our third summer fete on June 22nd and our fourth scheduled for June 21st this year. Will Savage, Sue Devonshire and the team of volunteers worked very hard to ensure a great day and to raise funds for Rowney Green Park.

Our maintenance team of Tony Cowles and Mark Coulson continue to maintain and improve the Hall and its surroundings. In addition, Andy Free has joined them in developing our heating strategy. These individuals devote a huge amount of their time to this work, we are fortunate to have their skills. I would like to record our thanks to them.

A big thank you to Sadie Dykes and Annie Cowles for all their hard work running the hall booking system and invoicing our customers. Sadie Dykes is also the hall's auditor and I would like to thank her for her knowledge and efficiency in dealing with the accounts.

I would also like to thank Nan Fellows for her work as Treasurer and her diligence in administering the Hall's finances. Nan has now retired as Treasurer and Andy Free has taken over. We are very grateful that Andy has taken this role on.

I would like to thank all of the trustees for their help and hard work over the year. We have been joined by Janet Corfield as secretary and she has done a

great job.

Every time I visit the park, I think how great it looks thanks to our regular volunteers. They have done a great job on improving the Park for the benefit of the Rowney Green community and others who visit the Park. They meet every Saturday morning and as well as working hard have an enjoyable social morning often with cake or hot dogs. They welcome new volunteers.

Finally, this is my last report as Chair. Mark Easter takes over today and I wish him well in his tenure. Thanks so much to everyone who helped me during my time as Chair.

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Tony Cowles formally thanked Chris for his hard work as chairman over many years, and particularly for overseeing management of the hall during the difficult years during Covid when there was no income.

4. Treasurer's report. Copies of the income and expenditure account for year ending 31st December 2024 were given out to the audience. (Copies on file).

Total cash funds at end of 2024 - £81,459

Bank account balances at the end of 2023

Current - £25,096

Deposit - £56,363

I will go through the income and expenditure account as prepared by our auditor Sadie Dykes, if you wish to refer to it.

Income is down a little on last year, the main difference is in the donations to the park which were down by £5,424 but almost £5,000 of this in the previous year was a grant from Worcester County Council of which £3,550 was used for the circular bench around the oak tree.

The accounts do not separate all the hall and park expenses out so for clarity I have done this.

Hall

Lettings total - £19,859

A small reduction in lettings as Flower Club finished, Riopedre reduced

their classes, Rainbow Explorers finished and Irish Dancing was a fleeting visitor. We do now have a regular Art Class, fitness class, Read Play Create Group and Toddler Football but are always open to new outside user groups.

Outside lets were down a little but always vary – these are mostly from children's parties and occasional villager's birthday parties and family celebrations.

Under fundraising (the park social events are included in "Fund Raising" in the balance sheet) is £788 the money taken at Lights Up (after costs taken out the profit is £215) but this is not organised as a fundraiser more a village Christmas celebration.

Donations come from various sources, the main one for the hall being the Goat & Trouser, that as well as paying a regular rent like other user groups, makes a donation at the end of the year which usually goes into a deposit account to use for capital cost in the hall – we are currently in the process of changing the heating system in the main hall to reduce costs.

Park

Total Receipts - £7,738

1. £490 from lettings (football)

2. £3,157 from the fete (this is the takings not the profit which was £1,716)

3. Donations - £3502 which includes mainly

- £1,092 from households and some

other events which are treated as donations (includes cycle ride sponsorship of £180)

- £1,000 from the Parish Council

- £600 from ACE

- £800 from 100 Club (this now supports the park)

4. Social Event takings - £589

(Note to self – sundry payment of £9.80 owed from Square card payments from previous year included in donations)

COSTS

Total - £29,813 (includes park). This is down on 2023.

Hall

Total - £23,678

I will go though some of the higher costs

1. New furniture & equipment - A new commercial dishwasher was purchased for the kitchen at a cost of £2,757

2. Repairs and maintenance £4,285 – these are actually lower than 2023 and we are extremely thankful for all the work done by our volunteers and especially Tony Cowles and Mark Coulson who both put in a lot of hours to keep the hall in good repair.

3. Energy £5,846 appears lower but this is a false figure as we received around £1500 in compensation over the way our new contract was handled. This next year will see a big increase in electricity costs as our 3 year contract, at much lower prices, came to an end in September and we are now paying the increased current market rate.

4. Water rates £864

5. Insurance - £1,532

6. Refuse/recycling £845

7. Cleaning& window cleaning - £4,337

8. Broadband - £483

9. Fire plus Health and Safety £954, an increase due to price rises and some repairs

10. Fees & Licences – includes TV Licence, Premises Licence (£180) and PRS/PPL(£508)

11. Events – This is the Christmas Lights Up – costs total £572.

They include the outside Christmas tree at £200, catering, prizes, decorations, children's activities and some tombola prizes.

Park

Total general costs include – £6,135 (note on balance sheet the park costs do not include the fete and some other costs £404 as Sadie does not separate everything out)

For clarity from the account spreadsheet costs include -

1. Capital costs £1064, the main one being £541 for a leaf blower

2. Fees and inspections £1021 – Rospa £78, Fire Alarms £95,

Insurance £176, Tree Inspection £672

3. Peppercorn rent of £100 to Parish Council

4. Maintenance - £915
5. Utilities £300
6. Mowing - £565 which includes servicing the mower
7. Fete Costs - £1441
8. Other Event costs - £583
9. Volunteer refreshments - £146

At the beginning of 2024 the park held a balance £10,729 in the general accounts and at the end of the year this was £12,323

I would like to thank Sadie Dykes for her support and for auditing the hall accounts that we are required to submit to the Charity Commission.

I am very pleased to tell you that Andy Free has taken over as Treasurer from the start of 2025. I have been treasurer for more years than I care to think about and am very happy to hand the job on to a very capable successor – thank you Andy.

5. Nomination of trustees.

Chris stated that all trustees were happy to continue and Gayle Stilwell had expressed an interest in becoming a trustee. Chris suggested she be coopted. This was proposed by RW and JW and seconded by AF.

Chris went on to say that with Nan and Chris preparing to step away he suggested the appointment of trustees as follows;

Mark as Trustee Chair
Andy as Trustee Treasurer
Tony as Trustee
Louise as Trustee
Sue as Trustee
Karen as Trustee
Nan coopted for Trustee group support
Himself coopted for new Chair support
Gayle to be co-opted.

This was formally proposed by Will and seconded by Richard W, and it was carried in the room with no objections.

6. Appointment of honorary auditor. Chris thanked Sadie Dykes for her work. She agreed to continue in this role in the coming year.

7. AOB.

Will Savage proposed that the tradition of providing cheese & wine at the end of the AGM be reestablished as this was an excellent way for attendees to mingle and discuss the meeting. This will be discussed in future trustee meetings.

9. Date of next AGM April 2026, date to be confirmed

