



Martin Village Hall

AGM

22nd August 2023 8.00pm

MINUTES

Invited:	Janice Rainforth	Craig Garner-Smith (Chair)
	Tracy Wilkinson	Carl Ulliyatt (Vice Chair)
	Maureen Wilkinson	Tanith Gordon (Secretary)
	Kevin Garner-Smith (Treasurer)	
Public:	Vicky Johnson	Ian Brookes
	Councilor Will Jenkins	Liz Jenkins
	Lindsey Stephenson	Councilor Will Stephenson
	Andrew Lamb	Sarah Lamb

ITEMS

1. Welcome and apologies

There were no apologies – all committee members attended

Craig welcomed the committee members and public to the third AGM since the new committee had formed

2. Approval of minutes from last AGM

Signed off by Carl Ulliyatt & Craig Garner-Smith

3. Chairs end of year report

In the interest of transparency for those not attending we detail below the transcript from the chair's report

"It is with a mix of pride and gratitude that I present this year's report for Martin Village Hall.

As many of you are aware, this has been a particularly challenging year for the committee. We have faced numerous personal setbacks, including family illnesses and unfortunate injuries like a broken hip and some events entirely outside our control.

Despite these difficulties, our collective efforts have ensured that Martin Village Hall remains a vibrant and welcoming hub for our community.

The committee has been together for 2 ½ years and I felt, therefore, we should remind ourselves of some of what we've helped organize”.

The chair played a short video

“The past year has truly tested our resilience. Both Kevin and I were unable to contribute as actively as we would have liked, especially during the busy Christmas period.

However, in the face of these challenges, the strength of the committee and our volunteer base and the support of our community, shone through.

It has been both humbling and heartwarming to witness how our committee and volunteers stepped up to ensure the smooth running of events and activities.

The dedication and commitment shown has been nothing short of extraordinary. Your efforts not only kept the Hall operational but also fostered a sense of unity and care within our community that is deeply endearing.

Despite the hurdles, we have successfully maintained our societies and clubs, which continue to thrive.

The MYHub group has seen significant growth this year, thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our volunteers. We have 50 registered youngsters between the age of 10 and 16.

Running youth activities is possibly the most challenging club that MVH has. We are having to address mental health issues, having to learn about transgender and non-binary identities, keeping up with evolving language and

concepts related to gender identity, navigating legal and policy issues, and carrying out risk assessments for the majority of our events.

For a few hours a month, we are responsible for the youngsters and we become their guardians. With thanks to the amazing skillsets of our MYHub volunteers we are able to offer a safe place.

MYHub has hosted a series of fantastic evenings, including crafting sessions, bath bomb making, cake decorating, karaoke nights, and fun outdoor activities such as sumo wrestling and rounders. These events have gone beyond just being enjoyable—they have brought together members of our community across different age groups, fostering stronger bonds and creating lasting memories.

One of the highlights of this year, for me, was being part of the team that worked with the MYHub group on a very special project. Together, we produced 20 large cakes and 30 muffins in the MVH kitchen, along with some wonderfully creative sales posters. The next day, we sold these baked goods at the village fete, and I couldn't have been prouder of what we achieved together. It was a true testament to what can be accomplished when we work as a team.

The warm hub continues to tackle isolation and loneliness that is prevalent in a rural community such as ours. We now fund the chair exercise and have sponsored two coach trips, one to a garden centre, and one to the pantomime. I would like to say a thank you to all the volunteers and committee members who help run the warm hub.

Martin is classified as a deprived area. In addition to most of the clubs which are free, MVH therefore tries to hold as many free events as possible. Such as Family Quizzes, Family Halloween evening, Christmas Carols with the brass band and of course MYHub nights or activities which is also free and includes a free snack such as hot dogs, burgers or pizza and a can of pop.

Martin Heritage Society is 10 months through their project to write a book about the history of Martin, which will be distributed to every house in Martin as well as local libraries and schools. We have a small group of a dozen contributors who are unearthing some fascinating facts about our village whilst under the watchful eye of our editor.

We also have the baby and toddlers group and are planning some more dates for the AmDram group in preparation for an evening of comedy sketches.

The Martin Book Club continues to thrive and is now in its third year.

Each month we have held a coffee morning and we introduced our first English breakfast earlier this month. I would like to thank our committee members and volunteers who consistently bake cakes for sale.

The family bingo continues to be popular and a lot of fun.

This year, thanks to our sponsors, we have held some really successful open mic nights. Entry is free for both the performers and the audience.

We've started alternating the open mic nights with family karaoke nights with more planned towards the end of the year.

We've held two fish and chip suppers and quizzes. One was our September quiz for over 14's for a coveted trophy, and the second was kindly sponsored by Quickline.

We've held two psychic nights, and thanks to a generous donation from a member of the community, we were able to hold a family Celidh night last November.

In December we had our Xmas Fayre with a visit by Santa, had a brass band and carols and also hosted mince pies and mulled wine after the Sleaford Choral evening.

We've helped community events like the bonfire night and the village fete.

The village hall proudly displays flowers and plants again this year thanks to a certain committee member and his Mum.

One of our major successes this year was the completion of our new kitchen. Although we had subcontractors to carry out the majority of the works, there has been a tremendous effort by our committee in planning, preparation and managing the works.

In short, during our last year the village hall has held over 800 hours of activities thanks to over 3000 hours of volunteer's time. As well as committing their own time freely, the committee and volunteers consistently buy their own fuel and pay for things such as cakes ingredients out of their own pockets.

In addition to MVH own activities, thanks to hall hire by the community, hire of the hall by MATES and public hire such as NKDC for elections, and hall hire for exercise classes, the hall has been used for a further 400 hours.

I've tried not to name individuals for thank you's for fear of missing someone out. But the village hall wouldn't exist without you.

I think that since the new committee was formed in April 2022, that we have demonstrated a real need for the village hall as a community hub.

So what does the future have in store for us?

Fund raising is one of our major focuses.

It is important to us that we sustain the activities and clubs which are now embedded within the community. Therefore, we are trying to source a grant which will pay for the overheads of the hall for the next 12 months.

Repairs and renovation remain our biggest challenge. The cost of repointing the hall and repairing the brick plinth is approximately £100,000. We have some serious leaks in the guttering and downpipes which will cost £18,000. Our oil tank is close to being condemned and its bunded tank needs replacing. The radiators and boiler are expensive to run. Oil heating is not environmentally friendly and we need to switch to a greener low carbon solution. Our walls are solid brick and we have single glazed windows. The cost to insulate the walls and replace the ceiling with rigid insulation and to install air source heat pumps is approximately £110,000.

We also have plans to put a mezzanine floor so that we can have a first floor meeting room. And plans to hard landscape the front so that the community has somewhere to sit and chat to their friends when the hall is closed, weather permitting of course.

This year we will be launching a small publication which focuses on charitable activities in Martin. It will be a collaboration of the village hall and the Holy

Trinity Church and will allow us greater opportunity to celebrate the successes whilst promoting our activities.

In conclusion, while this year has been challenging, but it has also been a year of immense pride and accomplishment. We have not only maintained our activities but have also strengthened our community bonds.

I extend my deepest thanks to every committee member, every volunteer and supporter of Martin Village Hall. Your unwavering dedication and support are what make this place the heart of our village.

As we look forward to the coming year, I am confident that, with the continued support of our amazing volunteers and community, we will overcome any challenges that come our way and continue to make Martin Village Hall a place of joy, connection, and growth for all”.

4. Treasurer’s report

Transcript of the Treasurer's report – presented by Kevin

“As you know, MVH submitted our accounts late this year. The reason was simply that Craig and I were caring for my parents from October of last year. Unfortunately, we had a bereavement in January and we missed the submission date by several weeks. However, The Charity Commission were sympathetic and allowed us additional time.

This year, in view of the level of our turnover, the committee voted to employ the services of a chartered accountant and appointed Dexter & Sharpe. We submitted our 2022/2023 draft accounts to them, and their figure came to within £18 of ours, which when you consider that the total of the receipts and payment was nearly £120,000, it was very reassuring. The accounts were then independently audited and submitted to the Charity Commission. If anyone would like a copy I have some here for you after the AGM and they are, of course, also available on the Charity Commission website as are every other registered charity.

Our next set of accounts will cover 2023/2024 and will be audited by Dexter & Sharpe, Chartered Accountants and submitted by January 2025.

For the purpose of the AGM I have compiled management accounts for July 2023 to 2024, as I have done the previous two years.

(See copy attached of management accounts distributed to the committee and public).

The headlines are:

Our opening balance was just under £53,000 and closing balance just over £34,000.

The majority of the £34,000 is money allocated to the Martin Heritage Society book project and also an element of grant money left for MYHub & Warm Hub. Our disposable cash is in fact less than £10,000. We are about to have a bill for £1600 for new lights and fittings, so you can see that its important we retain some for emergencies and unforeseen costs.

Our income for the year was nearly £57,000 and our expenditure £75,000. £47,000 of our expenditure was for hall improvements in the form of a new kitchen.

Our overheads for 2023/2024 amounted to approximately £11,000 This is a significant increase on the previous year and it will continue to increase next year. Some of the increase is because we decided that it was in the best interest of our users to have a regular weekly cleaning service. This amounts to about £1500 per year. I think we all agree that its money well spent and it allows us to concentrate on running activities or manning the kitchen and bar etc. We've now taken over the cost of the seated exercise classes, previously borne by MATES. This amounts to another £1500 per year. Software to operate an online hall booking service, software for the accounts and accountancy fees will add on another £1000. Our utilities costs have increased by over £2000 this year.

This year has seen a lot of expenditure on the fabric of the hall, and not only related to the kitchen, for example a mandatory asbestos survey, which we are required to have by law which was overlooked by previous committees, cost £500.

This year MVH donated approximately £500 which included a contribution to the PC towards the goal posts & a donation to MATES.

MVH opened its doors for a total of 1,100 hours this year which crudely gives you an hourly operating cost of £10 per hour. We only charge £10 per hour hall

hire for charitable and not for profit organisations and the local community for example children's parties. You can see therefore that our charge is cost neutral.

Martin is classified as a deprived area and with the increased energy costs and the increased cost of food, some families and individuals are struggling. The DWP report that just over one in five live in relative low income, or relative poverty. To offer free clubs and activities is important therefore and I know that they are very much appreciated.

I think that there is a misconception by those outside the committee that MVH is "cash rich" and I hope that you can see that's certainly not the case. We have substantial overheads and our hall which is over 160 years old means that there is a steady stream of repair & maintenance costs.

Our main income continues to come from bar sales, at events such as Bingo nights, open mic nights and karaoke and the fish and supper and quiz and of course the monthly coffee mornings. This income pays for the many free entry events.

We are currently pitching for two major grants for the repairs and improvements.

The organization who kindly granted us £40000 last year for the kitchen has already promised us £5000 as a match fund once we secure a substantial grant.

To pitch for grants we need to produce quotes from contractors and therefore we are currently having a drive on meeting contractors and inviting them to submit a bid for the various elements of the work.

I've split the work into separate packages:

- 1. External repairs such as the spalled brickwork, stitch repairs and repointing works*
- 2. Increasing the thermal efficiency of the hall by insulating the walls and roof space & changing the heating to a more efficient and lower carbon solution*
- 3. Improving the toilet facilities*
- 4. Adding a meeting room by building a mezzanine floor at the end of the hall*

5. Adding hard landscaped areas to the front, rear and side of the hall. The rear will include some form of storage building.

I want to end by thanking the community for supporting their village hall and for the many volunteers who give up their time freely to keep it operating. If anyone has any questions on the village hall finances, I'm happy to try and answer them at the end.

5. Election of the committee

The chair explained that the committee had met prior to the AGM and all had expressed an interest to continue for a further 12 months in their current roles.

The motion to remain "as is" was proposed by and seconded by Tracy Wilkinson & Moureen Wilkinson. All voted in favour

An expression to serve as a member of the committee was raised by Ian Brookes.

He was proposed by, Moureen Wilkinson, seconded by Tanith Gordon and all voted in favour. The chair welcomed Ian to the committee

6. Questions – open to the public

Councilor Jenkins raised a question relating to finances and pointed out that the operating costs exceeded the money's raised from the hall hire, events and bar sales.

The treasurer agreed and stated that MVH was dependent on securing grants and donations to cover the difference. MVH currently had approximately 12 months funds in the bank to cover the operating costs. However, unplanned expenses (such as the recent bill of £1600 to replace the lighting) would eat into the surplus.

7. Close

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and invited them to a drink after the meeting.