Martin Village Hall
AGM
25th August 2026
MINUTES

Invited:	Janice Rainforth	Craig Garner-Smith (Chair)
	Ian Brooke	Carl Ullyatt (Vice Chair)
	Vicky Johnson	Tanith Gordon (Secretary)
	Kevin Garner-Smith (Treasurer)	

1. Welcome and Apologies

Craig (Chair) welcomed the committee members and the public to the Martin Village Hall AGM.

He reported apologies from Vicky, Tanith, Ian & Carl

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous AGM were presented for sign-off by Janice.

3. Chair's End of Year Report

The following is an extract from Craig's report:

"The committee and volunteers continue to give their time freely and enthusiastically to ensure that the village hall remains available for all to use.

The MYHub group has continued to grow, and we now have 60 registered youngsters. The group couldn't run without the volunteers of course and special thanks go to them all for keeping us operating smoothly.

MYHub has hosted a series of fantastic evenings, including outside activities where we have made use of the pavilion. For the third year some of the MYHub volunteers again made cakes for the village fete and have

been instrumental in helping raise valuable funds for Martin Village Hall and the community.

Some of our youngsters have reached an age when they are now too old to attend and have been replaced by new children coming into the village who have been keen to make new friends.

The warm hub continues to open each Wednesday for 4 hours thanks entirely to volunteers. The hub offers a space for the community to meet neighbours and to make new friends. Without these dedicated caring individuals, the hub simply wouldn't exist.

Martin is classified as a deprived area and MVH therefore tries to hold as many free events as possible. Such as Family Quizzes, Family Halloween, Christmas Carols with the brass band and of course MYHub nights and the weekly community hub.

Martin Heritage Society is approaching its final stages and the chapters are being edited. Approximately 90% of the content has been written but there is still much to be done before we go to press. Ruddocks of Lincoln have been appointed as the publishers and are helping guide us through the process.

The Martin Book Club continues to be a great success. The evening is open to all. It's a great way of meeting new friends and neighbours whilst pursuing a passion for reading.

Each month, as many of you know, we hold a coffee morning which include sausage and bacon baps. I would like to thank our committee members who consistently bake cakes for sale.

Family bingo continues to be popular and a lot of fun and is held each month.

The bar continues to be a valuable source of profit. For example, last weekend saw the 80th birthday celebrations for a member of the community. As well as providing a space for this special event, it helped raise much needed funds for the hall.

In December we had our Xmas Fayre with a visit from Santa and had a brass band and carols.

The hall has also helped with wider community projects, either by loaning equipment, making cakes or canapes and helping wherever possible. Last year we provided a display for the church of those who served our country as part of Remembrance.

Martin Village Hall also offered support with the village fete and the music festival, raising funds for Cancer Research. Members of the MVH committee also help with church activities where possible,

In addition to MVH own activities, we thank the community for hiring the hall. Whilst we generally do not make a profit from local hires, the hall is serving the purpose that it was destined to do. Families enjoy the use of a large space for children's parties, MATES use it for a children's disco and to provide a Christmas lunch for the over 70's and hirers such as the exercise classes and the crafty club provide a place to meet and enjoy.

We do make a profit from external hires though such as the hire of the hall by NKDC for elections

In short, during our last year the village hall held over 900 hours of activities thanks to over 3000 hours of volunteer time.

Our focus for next year remains the same as previous years:

Firstly, fund raising remains one of our major focuses and the treasurer will touch on this in his report.

Secondly, we need to address the continual need for repairs and renovation.

And thirdly we wish to continue to provide a safe space for our community.

So, as we look ahead, we want to build on the success of our recent events and activities. We're eager to make improvements, and we believe the best way to do that is together.

In conclusion, while this year has been challenging, it has been another successful year.

That concludes my report as the Chair".

4. Treasurer's report

The following is an extract from Kevin's (Treasurer) report:

"Given the level of our turnover and for full transparency, the committee continues to employ the services of a chartered accountant and an independent auditor. As noted last year, our accountant highlighted that, based on our volume of transactions, we are effectively running a small business.

Our 2024/2025 draft accounts were submitted in January, checked, and approved by our accountants. They were then independently audited and submitted to the Charity Commission; copies are available on their website. The next set of accounts will cover the 2025/2026 period and will be submitted by January 2027 for auditing by Dexter & Sharpe, our Chartered Accountants.

For this AGM, I am quoting from the latest published annual report of the Trustees for the year ending 5th April 2025.

Financial Overview

- ***Receipts & Expenditure:*** *Total receipts for the year were £45,700, while total expenditure was £34,600, resulting in an increase in cash funds of just over £11,000.*
- ***Income Comparison:*** *Receipts were down on the previous year by approximately £11,000. We expect this trend to continue as grants become increasingly difficult to secure.*
- ***Payments & Balances:*** *Payments increased by roughly £5,000 on last years accounts, primarily due to rising operating costs.*

Rising Costs & Commercial Pressures *Our annual overheads by which I mean electricity, oil, insurance, licences, cleaning and other essential costs rose from £11,000 last year to £12,200 at the beginning of this year. Based on projected fuel price hikes, we anticipate our essential running*

costs rising to between £15,000 and £16,000 for the 2026–2027 period. Everyone is experiencing significant rises in the cost of living, and the village hall is no exception:

- *The cost of filling our oil tank now exceeds £2,000.*
- *Electricity costs have escalated; unlike domestic tariffs, commercial tariffs are not capped.*
- *The rebuild value of the village hall has been independently assessed at £1.9m, contributing to a significant hike in our insurance premium, which has virtually doubled over the past five years.*

Just opening the doors of the village hall costs an average of £1300 a month. Clearly costs are higher in the cold months, and less in the summer months. This excludes the cost of the activities we run, such as the Wednesday Hub, MYHub, Book Club, and various free family events.

Looking at our accounts, it might be perceived by some that we are cash-rich, but we face substantial overheads, and maintaining a hall that is over 160 years old brings a steady stream of repair and maintenance costs.

Fundraising is therefore very important. Five years ago the hall relied on coffee mornings and hall hires. Profit from coffee mornings barely makes a dent in our operational costs though, which is why behind-the-scenes fundraising by our volunteers is so vital.

As Craig mentioned, the bar also remains a profitable source of income, contributing to running costs despite operating only a few times a year.

We are also very grateful to:

- *The Parish Council: For their £1,000 annual contribution in exchange for litter-picking services (a steady contribution initiated five years ago that remains greatly appreciated).*
- *Mary King's Trust: For allowing us to run the bacon butty stall at the car boot sale.*
- *The Village Fete: For a share of the raised proceeds.*

We started this financial year in a healthy position having accumulated significant grants. We also worked hard to raise funds by holding events.

These funds will help subsidise our operating costs into 2027, when we hope to secure one of two major grants that we have applied for.

It should be noted that the grant monies from the National Lottery Heritage Grant may make us look cash rich. However, the grant has been ring-fenced specifically for publishing the book on the history of Martin and can only be spent on costs relating to the book.

Progress on obtaining major building grants has been slow as our primary focus remains securing funds for day-to-day operations. However, to move forward with larger funders, we require architect plans to share with the local community and to obtain accurate pricing. We also need to employ a structural engineer. These fees run into thousands of pounds and are not covered by general grants, meaning professional costs will need to be absorbed by our own funds.

Offering affordable or free events—such as the family quiz, Halloween, and Christmas events—remains one of our core aims. Providing free clubs and activities such as MYHub, the community Hub, Book club etc is vital to our mission, and I know how much the community appreciates them.

To conclude: thanks to the generosity of the National Lottery at the end of 2024, the continued support of the Parish Council, proceeds from the fete, and the incredible hard work of our committee and volunteers, we continue to keep the village hall open for the community.

If anyone has any questions regarding the village hall finances, I would be happy to answer them at the end of the meeting".

5. Election of the committee

Craig's script continued:

"The committee met prior to the AGM and discussed whether they would like to continue for a further 12 months as a committee member.

Carl Ullyatt has decided after 5 years to step down as a committee member.

Carl was instrumental at coming up with the litter picking initiative at a time when the village hall could barely pay for its insurance.

He has played Santa on several occasions and has helped steer the village hall in the right direction. Carl, like many of the other committee members, has done so much behind the scenes to help with the success of the village hall.

We are indebted to his support over the years and thank him for his hard work and dedication.

With the exception of Carl, the remaining committee members have agreed to stand for election for the coming year. I am therefore offering the motion that Janice, Ian, Tanith, Vicky, Kevin and myself be offered up for election *en masse."*

Janice proposed the motion, Kevin seconded the motion. All three voted in favour.

6. Questions

Questions were invited from the public.

John Audis raised concerns regarding the stained-glass windows which have not yet been displayed - Kevin apologised for the delay in actioning the framing and display of the glass panels and said that he would chase the National Heritage for permission to spend some of the lottery money on this (circa £1500). A request had been made some months prior but the National Lottery had not given a definite answer. John asked if the hall could use its own funds. Kevin agreed to raise it with the rest of the committee.

John raised the matter about displaying the pantomime photos – Kevin agreed to display them in the next few weeks.

John asked for a phone number to be displayed on the village hall notice board. Craig explained that everyone booking the hall are given a contact number and that he was was reluctant to display the private number of one of the committee members. It was agreed, however, that the matter would be discussed at the next committee meeting.

John raised various housekeeping observations which were discussed.

Kevin thanked John for his questions.

7. Meeting Close

Thanks were given to those attending and the meeting was declared closed.

I now declare the meeting closed.

8. Date of next AGM

July or August 2027 – date to be agreed