

LEONARD STANLEY VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Charity Number 284371

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Chairman: richard.hubble@hotmail.co.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY 2026

APOLOGIES: Bailey Curtis (Art), Julie Cull (dog Training), Pat Hearne, Chris Phillips, Ali Hubble, Ann Connett & Julia Bogdiukiewicz (Committee Members/Supporters), Trustees Phil Herbert & Paul Mukasa.

PRESENT: Trustees: Richard Hubble (Chairman), Nadine Phillips, Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Manager Penny Scott, Treasurer Ian Sutton, John Deuten Chairman of & representing LS Social Club, Parish Cllr Chris Connett representing LSPC plus Secretary Jane Roberts.

Weather & illnesses prevented several from attending. Speedy recovery to them all.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: (full copy in Minute Book), Richard Hubble thanked fellow Trustees, Committee Members, fundraising team, regular hirers and all the many local residents who have helped & supported the village hall over the past 12 months. He thanked the Secretary for her work taking notes as well as fundraising via her plant stall at home and mini cat sales.

He also introduced Treasurer Ian Sutton who came aboard last year, swiftly gaining control of finances. He will also take us through the next stage of the hall's development.

The goal for the hall is to be the primary community social hub – for everyone in LS. To that end we have established a close, constructive, collaborative working relationship with the social club. As our tenant, they provide the hall with its largest source of income.

RH hopes that we can also forge similarly close, positive working relationships with other main community organisations – Parish Council, LS Primary School, St Swithun's Church, and LS Football Clubs. It is essential to build a true community spirit throughout the village and RH will continue to prioritise this as long as he is Chairman.

He thanked the Parish Council for funding the high-speed internet installation and also P Cllr Rob Bayliss & his fellow Cllrs for their support. Wifi is free for hall users. It is working well now but it will be upgraded in due course when funds permit.

RH highlighted last July's very successful, well attended **Summer Fayre**. We think about 3-400 people passed through. We are planning a similar, hopefully even more successful one on **Saturday July 25 12 – 4pm**. A **Christmas Fayre** is also scheduled for **Saturday November 28th 2026 12 – 4pm**.

We are still necessarily focussed on securing the essential funds to pay for a new roof as this is our most important infrastructure project. Without a decent roof on this lovely, historic building, none of our other ambitious plans will happen.

We managed to amass well over £45,000, up from iro £22,000 at our last AGM. Cost of building materials & construction increases all the time. We still need to raise £20,000+.

The next FR initiative is a GRAND RAFFLE. If you buy a £5 ticket YOU could win a week's holiday in Murcia southern Spain in a lovely 2 Bed Villa, a £100 Frocester Fayre voucher, or a Wheelbarrow of Wine! Richard or a team member are only too happy to sell you a ticket. To be drawn at the end of March.

RH, with help from Chris Connett, is pursuing a potentially very large grant from Enovert, an independent environmental body funded by the Landfill Communities Fund. Fingers firmly crossed on that which could see work on the roof start later THIS year.

RH & the small Committee would really welcome more volunteers to join the fundraising committee or take on any other supporting role you feel you can fulfil.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Full Report in Minute Book) Jane has been Secretary, but not a trustee, since September 2021 and enjoys working with everyone involved with the VH & SC. We were all sad when David Pearson resigned last year as Trustee when he moved out of the area. He was a great help to me in my role as well as helping wherever required during hall events & numerous tasks inside and outside.

The role was adjusted to reduce the Treasurer's load just before I came aboard. It means sending an online Annual Return to the Charity Commission plus several documents that form part of it. They need to see Annual Income & Expenditure, a Report from Trustees and a Statement from an Independent Auditor plus their detailed questionnaire to fill in.

I do a bit of fundraising. Plants sell themselves to passers-by and I always have a surfeit of cute trouble-free knitted cats needing new homes to put on any stall they let me have.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Full report in Minute Book) IS set out a summary of results for the 9 months to 31st December 2025, with a projection for this current year to 31st March 2026. He also showed results for years ended 31st March 2025 and 2024. The forecast surplus for this year is approx. £8,000.

Current bank balances: Current A/C £8,450, Deposit A/C £48,800. £2,000 of that is from a Parish Council contribution towards installing a Fire Alarm System which will cost much more and IS has not allowed for the cost of installation. Our County Cllr has a discretionary fund we hope will give us a further £2,000 which Paul Mukasa is pursuing.

Roof replacement expected to be iro £70,000. At present activity it will take 3 years.

NP asked about Gift Aid. No claim has been made. In order to capture any donors, they have to sign a form. Donors can only be individuals, not organisations or companies.

IS confirmed that his projection indicates that occasional bookings would be down on last year. He also assumed that Social Club would pay the same rent.

SOCIAL CLUB REPORT: SC confirmed that they are doing OK although they have spent significantly on their renovations, so they are unlikely to be able to pay over their agreed rent. They hope the improvements will significantly increase business.

MANAGER'S REPORT: (full copy in Minute Book) Thanks to PM for organising & replacing safety glass in hall doors. The gents' (smelly) leak is once again being diagnosed and dealt with. The permanent solution would be to fit a wall hung toilet so that any spillage can be mopped up – a pricey future project when funds permit?

A new Dance Group is on a Friday evening for 3 – 18 years (Street & Hip-Hop). There is also a new Meditation/Breathwork class. Penny always helps new hirers by publicising their classes on socials & magazine, but sometimes it is difficult to really get the message across/word out that these things are there for local people, short of leafletting door to door. Sadly, the new daytime Pilates class did not take off due to lack of students. Please consider supporting these regular classes. To encourage new hirers they could be offered a free hiring & perhaps they could offer new students a free class.

A calendar of when the hall events are scheduled would be helpful, that's already in the magazine but could be revised and highlighted on the website.

New cutlery in the drawers, enough for 80 people. The local Welfare Trust has donated again this year, thanks to Ann Connett.

Penny wants to say a very big thank you to Coffee morning people and Film Club. We are so lucky that both groups quietly donate all their takings to the hall. They also give everyone a very warm welcome to those joining them. Film Club is on the 3rd Saturday morning monthly. Drinks & biscuits before some very interesting films. Coffee morning meets first Saturday monthly. Ask Penny if you want to know more.

Village Hall & Social Club are jointly managing a Summer Fayre this year and the Christmas Fayre (Saturday July 25th 12 - 4) and (Saturday November 28th (12 - 4).

Penny reminds us that there is A LOT to do getting these up together (stiff competition from others outside) and not a lot of people to do it but we are determined to make the Summer Fayre special for everyone and more news will come out on this as/when. Work is already underway but any good/unusual ideas very welcome ASAP.

The Emergency Contacts List is being reviewed/revised and there will be a list of contacts displayed inside the hall on the Notice Board and on the inside of the window. It will also feature in the magazine and on the website.

TO CONFIRM THE CURRENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

There are 5 Trustees:

Current Chairman Richard Hubble, Phillip Herbert, Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Paul Mukasa, Nadine Phillips. The Secretary and Treasurer are not Trustees. The Committee employs a Manager: Penny Scott and a Caretaker Kevin Turfrey.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES:

All Trustees, the Secretary and Treasurer are willing to continue. There were no other nominations for these positions and so the current arrangements will continue. RH felt that there is an opening for another Trustee, so if anyone is interested, or found or comes forward, please contact us.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION (GOVERNING DOCUMENT) has been revised during 2025, reviewed, and accepted by the Trustees and is now signed. This new document updates and clarifies the original one that was produced in the early 1980s as it had become too far out of date. It can now be uploaded to the Charity Commission for their approval.

Under the new Constitution Trustees can vote who comes on and off the committee and who can be co-opted onto it. So, SC Chairman John Deuten, will become a Committee Member, also Ann Connett & Ali Hubble, all of whom are already our valued supporters.

MORE VOLUNTEERS: on the Committee would be welcome to help manage the Summer Fayre and other major events. Our small committee cannot cover all the details, eg marshalling. PS talks to our hirers and other local organisations and has put long posts on FB twice in recent times, with a big response (the freezers of love initiative sparked a about 40 willing helpers but it fell through).

We should try to engage more with the community as it seems that many villagers simply do not know that we are here for them or need their support and help. Another long FB post would be a good start. We do need to put out a cry for help.

Agreed, that it has been hard these past few years for all groups and times have changed. The village as it once was is not the same now.

There is an older population that supports local events but there is also a younger population out there. Perhaps Lily Fulton's young people/parents, could be persuaded to get involved with something. The School has already agreed to bring their children to sing Christmas Carols. KS Playgroup also used our hall for one of their events. It was agreed we should ask Toddler Groups/Scouts/Cubs to do something for the SF. Scouting has changed, due partly to H&S/Risk Assessments making it more difficult for leaders but they ought to be able to help out at a local event.

Getting the word out seems to be needed – letterboxing the village with a crafted leaflet explaining what we are, what is on offer and publicising the GRAND RAFFLE + the SF.

THE GRAND RAFFLE is the ideal opportunity to reach out to residents and begin a chat about the VH. RH would be happy to cover Saxon Gate having a chat personally, though not everyone feels able to knock on doors. SG has already formed a local association anyway so perhaps the door is half open.

Numbered, ID detailed Tickets are available now so flyers mentioning the raffle could be delivered. Various of the committee can drop flyers in covering most of the village. NP also has a list of the numbers. PS would ask hirers to sell tickets to any of their clients, the incentive for them would be that for every 10 sold at £5, one would be free. Such sellers would only have to pay us £45 and they would have a free one to use as they wish. Social Club would promote it there too. RH would ask Football Club to sell tickets, the girls' section too as they owe us a favour.

NP will have the list of who has taken which numbered tickets to sell for us and sold tickets must have a name matched to the number.

TASKS:

- 1) Design leaflet (RH)
- 2) Tell people about the VH
- 3) Sell Tickets
- 4) Promote hall activities.

DRAW: Takes place on 31st March at the VH.

CASH: SO MANY PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE CASH ABOUT THESE DAYS.

We do have one card reader. Will more be necessary? NP has a sum up app on her phone which can scan money into the VH A/C for those paying by phone. She will test it and pass on instructions. (But there is a percentage charge on transactions).

Cash would still be welcome and even necessary at the SF, especially for all those small spends that parents give to children for rides and attractions.

SUMMER FAYRE: Steel Band very keen to come. Various details being sorted before booking them. RB to liaise w Tess Wheeler & PS re quality stallholders booked for both SF & XF and see who PM has spoken to. Coffee Van and Ice Cream Van being sorted. Face painting booked. One or more cake stalls could work on the field – pursue/book. Other stallholders pursued by AC.

PS suggested a Pet Photographer which are really popular, yes. Also, try to get Lynne line dancing group to come along. Vintage cars & tractors to come. Other attractions for children being booked.

Would Art Club consider a modest exhibition/sale of some of their work, either on the day or at another time, with a donation to the VH? PS to speak to BC.

Promotion in magazine too late for February but even better timing next (March) issue.

STALLHOLDER PAYMENTS: Payment on booking, transfers preferred. Need to give reference as SF + name

We will also have our usual refreshments in the VH for those wanting space to sit and chat.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 7.30PM LSVH. Concentrating on Flyers & Posters & progress.

ADVANCE INFORMATION:

31st March Grand Raffle Draw at the Village Hall

Summer Fayre Saturday July 25 12 – 4pm.

Christmas Fayre Saturday November 28th 2026 12 – 4pm