

LEONARD STANLEY VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 31st March 2026

Apologies: Trustee Phil Herbert, Supporters Ali Hubble & Pat Hearne.

Present: Trustees: Chairman Richard Hubble, Jan Bogdiukiewicz, Paul Mukasa, Nadine Phillips, Treasurer Ian Sutton, Supporters Ann Connett & Chris Phillips, LSPC Rep Chris Connett, Manager Penny Scott, Parishioner Pete Davis & Secretary Jane Roberts.

Minutes of the last meeting, held 5th February, circulated twice, were accepted as a correct record.

Pete Davis was welcomed as one of those who were instrumental in transforming this building in 1981 from the Village School into our Village Hall. Pete stressed that there were a great many people involved in that process which took well over a year, and a lot of local manpower, to achieve. The only paid personnel were a plumber and an electrician. Pete mentioned some old photos which must be somewhere in the village. It would be great if any of them come to light to add to the Village Hall Story Leaflet that has recently been generated. The Story will be used to produce promotional leaflets to distribute to households as well as populating the website. Later tonight Pete will draw the winning raffle tickets.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: (Full Report in Minute Book) Chairman thanked all those who have been supporting the hall, particularly Penny Scott whose ongoing commitment is very much appreciated, also to all those who bought (or sold) raffle tickets, including our lovely hirers. Ticket sales were very successful. The January AGM brought in the new constitution/governing document for the village hall charity. This replaces the original created in 1981 which had become out of date and unrepresentative of the modern situation. The VH Story (mentioned above) was also drafted by the Secretary and this will be used and updated as more information becomes available. Copies to distribute will be made to drop round in due course. They could be given to occasional hirers and to newcomers to LS as well as in future publicity drives.

Our main focus lately has been on securing necessary funds for the roof rebuild. Upon that depends follow on ambitious plans for both VH & Social Club in the coming years.

We remain extremely hopeful of a grant from Enovert, an independent environmental body funded by the Landfill Communities Fund. They have a very busy agenda on 14th April so fingers crossed we are in luck. We are now at £54K! and the Enovert grant would get us there – to be able to start roof works this summer!!

More volunteers are always welcome (and needed) to help on the fundraising committee or to take on any other supporting roles you feel able to help with – the Summer Fayre will definitely need more helpers.

The VH is an essential social hub for the local community in LS so the more residents who can get involved the more successful it will be. The Hall is available for us all to use and enjoy whether as hirers for regular or occasional events or as participants in what is already on offer.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Statement in Minute Book) Ian reported the last of the ticket monies to bank asap is £700. Luckily we still have a bank in Stroud. He was very pleased with how well it has done. PM added that on the back of this we might have a stall at the Summer Fayre to promote another Grand Raffle (with some other great prizes??) or at least promote the VH as it seems we did not cover the whole Parish selling tickets. Ian provided a summary statement of the whole financial year to date, 31st March. RH asked whether LSPC had paid in the promised £2K for the Fire Alarm system. LSPC confirmed later that, in fact, they paid LSVH on the 12th December. Apologies to the PC for the previous misunderstanding.

RH noted that income from hirings has fallen in the last 12 months by 25 – 30%. We lost a regular hirer which does explain the drop. Whilst not unduly concerned as there is Social Club income, but the hall is there to be used and he would not wish this trend to continue. We can't compare our fees with KSVH as theirs is much larger with more rooms. We are competitive. Manager will as always keep looking for new hirers. We need a meeting focussing on promoting Hall Hire (& potential users) so when the date is fixed below, **ATTENDEES ARE ASKED TO BRING 3 IDEAS EACH TO DISCUSS.** Ideas so far: leaflet drop to households, hedge banner, socials.

RH found the original "Hire the Hall" document which could also be printed off ready to drop round/give out, including to the school which owes us a favour. Their pool fundraiser did benefit from our help and school was not able to support us last Christmas.

Despite the above IS reported that we have a surplus of £5K

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The usual regular tasks undertaken: Circulating Agendas & Notice of Meetings to those on the mailing list, taking & recording Minutes of meetings, circulating them for approval/amendment. I now await a Statement of Annual Accounts which Ian will have had audited by our independent auditor, Stewart Gunnell. I will prepare an updated Trustees' Annual Report (TAR) for Trustees to approve/amend. These documents must accompany the online Charity Annual Return which asks various questions. This works to be done within 10 months of the year end. They will also be sent our updated governing document.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Penny's Report is very short (appended to the Minute Book) but she always keeps hirers and others up to date with what is going on in such a friendly way as well as looking for new hirers and publicising hirers' classes in the community. PS reflected thoughts of those present in her condolences to Chris Phillips whose husband Denys died recently. Chris herself has been a VH supporter for many years.

PS reported that our Caretaker Kev Turfrey is now recovering from his operation having 3 stents. We wish him a speedy recovery.

PS confirmed that hall hirers' sales of raffle tickets raised £330 and thanked them all very much for their support. A villager, Judy Dawes, also donated £200 to the roof fund. All these donations mean a great deal and make a real difference. The Breathwork class did not take off sadly, not for want of trying by Gabby and PS. Perhaps just not the right time, or those who might be interested already attend one of the yoga classes.

The drop in hirers gives opportunities for others to fill in gaps. SOMEONE ? WILL CONTACT LYNNE WILLIAMS again to see if she wants to start up another class. There used to be a jive class so maybe that could be pursued.

RH mentioned Randall & Payne's regular charity Quizes. He hopes that they might reconsider having one here although we can only accommodate 80 and do not have a stage. We have a PA System which RH is very happy to loan them; that always works for our quizzes. PM mentioned that he too has a PA System which could be used for the SF etc. It requires a Mike (Nadine could supply that). PS would contact them to see if they are interested.

We are getting a PA System & Screen via LSPC but RH feels that it is better delayed until the roof is done.

SOCIAL CLUB REPORT: Nadine confirmed that SC is doing pretty well. They have taken on 3 new bar staff for various shifts replacing Nicky who has found work elsewhere. Les is still there & volunteering a couple of shifts. They have an Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday and kids' amusements. They applied for a lottery grant but were unsuccessful so now need to raise £13,500 towards the costs of replacing the windows. They are metal framed and suffer from condensation which requires regular treatment despite secondary glazing. It will also be much warmer. They have a new swing sign & banner and will get a notice board. Membership is fairly static at 250, ideally they wish to boost numbers. Members include people from various trades which gives them help and information in various ways. *(information clarified)*

Like the VH, SC also finds that villagers/parishioners do not know about their most local social facilities. Some newcomers do not even know in which village/parish they live! Ann Connett mentioned an enquiry from an allotment plot holder who did not know what might be on offer locally. RB advised that Saxon Gate residents are mailed to about annual fees so that would be one way to promote events and foster a sense of belonging. Perhaps someone will let Irena Litton (Parish Clerk) know so she can update the mailing list.....

THE GRAND RAFFLE DRAW WILL NOW TAKE PLACE!

The final total of monies received is £2941, a fantastic result!!

Pete Davis, villager and former postman, was invited to draw the three winners:

First Prize: 7 nights' stay in a 2 bed villa in Murcia, Spain - Jackie, Saxon Gate, LS.

Second Prize: £100 Voucher for Frocester Fayre - David Neno Leonard Stanley.

Third Prize: A Wheelbarrow full of wines - Alan Marsh Leonard Stanley.

We phoned the first and third prize winners to receive the news and a round of applause. Ian contacted the second prize winner by email to let him know the good news.

We must now thank ALL who have contributed in whatever way to the success of this raffle. To the sellers who worked in various ways to get them sold, including wheeling the full barrow

around. To the buyers of tickets even though they have not won, they have made a wonderful contribution to the hall. To the donors of the prizes. The wines came from various sources: Greene King, Vinotopia and personal donations. The barrow was donated by someone too. Thanks will go out via the usual social media, the website and newsletter. BUT THANK YOU ALL.

Pete also mentioned that in former times he had raised monies for various causes and still has a number of bespoke games (eg splat the rat) which he is offering to the VH. He will liaise with Paul to see what items are likely to be useful. Many thanks Pete.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE:

RH, PS and AC have been contacting numerous stallholders and others to firm up on who will be coming to the SUMMER FAYRE ON 25TH JULY.

RH's ongoing database confirms the following

STALLHOLDERS (not an exhaustive/complete list btw): Stroud Camera Club, Tekkels Stand and Top Dog Show, Beekeepers, Lynne Batten Toys, Rosslyn Blockley handicrafts, Rachel gifts, Sharon ?, Karen Capeling, Ken Krick, Tess Wheeler, Paganhill Plants, SJ Cakes, Justine Chopfra Indian Goods, Di Turner Jewellery, Vikki Crafts/kids special bags. 16 stallholders at least.

FOOD VH teas and cakes, SC BBQ, Winstones Ice Cream, Mobile Coffee Van, Still need pizza man and taco man. Need also kids' food. No real conflict between VH side and field side offerings.

ATTRACTIONS include: Panache Steel Band, face painting, classic cars, steam engine, maybe a tractor. Hopefully the Fire Engine and Firemen if not called out. Plus that TOP DOG SHOW. Bouncy Castle (Inflatable) persons needs questions answered. Football club (girls'?) will put on a beat the goaly session). PS suggested we get some cheap plastic bunting to put up everywhere outside. PM thought that SDC might still hire out bunting. He would check. CP said that there should still be some bunting left from the jubilee in the loft. AC and JR have some fabric bunting to donate.

So, c 20 stalls, c 6 food vendors, c 6 attractions +++ games for kids, tug of war? Egg & spoon races, welly-wanging, Lynne Williams Line dancing ??? Maybe the school will be able to do something this time.

PS said that we need to put out an appeal, eg on facebook, for help on the day. Last time this was done the response was extremely good.

Stallholders to get free food and drink. We could look for more stalls.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Connett advised that the DEFIBRILLATOR box has been empty, since November as far as he could work out. No light, No battery = no function. The nearest machines are in the vending shop at Church Farm and LS School. This surely cannot be right. LSPC is responsible for it but perhaps it is outsourced for regular professional inspections. CC would advise the Clerk to look into the matter urgently. Batteries are very expensive, but even so, they are necessary. Who would have removed it?

Jan Bogdiukiewicz advised that the Church's new heaters are in & working very well. They have a quiz in May and are continually fundraising, not least to finish paying for the heaters, but also for their roof as the diocese no longer supports churches as once they maybe had.

Paul Mukasa asked whether a trained First Aider has been considered for the Summer Fayre. This needs to be sorted out. Last year that was covered by the girls' football leader who is qualified. It maybe that we will need a specific qualified F A on site if attendance is over 500. Quite likely if Tekkels supporters come out in force.

Paul also raised the matter of the FIRE ALARM SYSTEM. He has been researching this. Of the 3 quotations, one came out on top as his preferred choice, both in terms of price and importantly for us, the type of installation details being offered. The preferred Quotation is for £4989 + VAT. 2K comes from LSPC, 2K is promised from GCC and LSVH will find 1K. Social Club is happy to commission the work as it covers their premises as well. Details will be worked out between both Treasurers.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

Two meetings are needed before SUMMER FAYRE on 25th July to drill finely into the details.

Trustees should also meet to discuss the drop in hall hiring and asks each attendee to bring 3 ideas along. That could be done before the first of those meetings. 7pm start.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 6th May. 7pm for Trustees to focus on hall hiring promotion, 7.30 others.

The second meeting will be decided afterwards.