



East Brent Village Hall

HALLMARK *

Registered Charity No.269419

Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held in the Village Hall on Friday 23rd May 2025

- Present:** Barbara Bolton, Helen Broderick, Rosie Darlaston, Rosemary Gilling, Carol Howard, Pat Seabrook, Julie Ward, Jane Watkins & Jeff Noyes in the Chair.
- Item 1: Apologies:**
Dot Coles, Mary-Ellen Harris, David Nock, Kathy Quinnell & Jan Ward
- Item 2 Minutes of the last meeting:**
The Minutes were approved by those present after a couple of amendments to the spelling of Carol Howard's name.
- Item 3: Matters arising:**
1. The website is still not easily accessible. Helen Broderick to try to resolve.
 2. The new solar panels are not functioning, and bird guards have not been fitted. The Chairman read a report he had prepared (copy attached) which indicates Wired Weston have quoted £4,200 to resolve the problems. It was agreed to obtain a second quote.
 3. Wired Weston have also carried out some of the electrical repairs i.e. heaters in the toilet and new batten lights. They have recommended a completely new re-wire, but three quotes will need to be obtained.
 4. The Post Box has been obtained, and this will be installed when the exterior is painted.
 5. A contractor is attending on Saturday 24th May to attend to the repair of the window in the main hall.
 6. The PPL Certificate has now been obtained.
- Item 4: Correspondence:**
- Communications received from CCS (Community Council for Somerset) had been previously circulated by the secretary.
 - Interest rate on the Reserve Account has gone down
 - Stewart Darlaston thanked the committee for his card and voucher in recognition of his service as Chairman.
- Item 5: Treasurer's Report:**
Helen Broderick advised that the current account stands at £26,156 and the reserve account (Scottish Widows) at £15,657. She suggested we could borrow funds from the reserve account and pay back monthly to fund the electrical re-wire. The total income for nine months is £20,754 and the expenditure is £21,131.
- Item 6: Hall Bookings:**
Rosie Darlaston reported that bookings are still healthy although there have been a few hiccoughs and juggling required to fit around the various clubs and the new table tennis club. She advised that 30 minutes is allowed between booking to allow time for setting up/taking down. Table Tennis requested a key to the shed for storage of their equipment and this was agreed. No-one has objected to the price

increase. One potential customer objected to the scaffolding and decided to go elsewhere! It was noted that double sided sticky tape had been used, and this was very difficult to remove. Rosie will contact the hall user to advise.

Item 7: 200 Club:

Carol Howard reported that, to date, £4000 has been spent on prize money, £250 used to purchase poppies for VE Day commemorations, £200 for loan of a table tennis table for six months and £45 for transport of the table. Carol had been unable to get a response from St John Ambulance about running a first aid course. Sanders had responded and were willing to supply bulbs. It was agreed that daffodils would be preferable which would need to be planted in the Autumn. After a discussion it was agreed to leave the poppies in situ until VJ Day and then use more prior to Remembrance Sunday for more impact.

Item 8: Representative Reports:

- (a) Allsorts Choir. The following report was received after the meeting:
"The choir has now got several new members, after losing a few over the past year for lots of different reasons. This has meant our funds have been depleted, with new members hopefully this will sort it out. We have done several mini concerts including a couple of VE Day celebrations that we performed at. These seemed to go very well with everyone enjoying a 40's sing along. We are also looking forward to singing at the East Brent Methodist Church on 28th June as well as a big concert we are arranging for Weston Hospice in September, this we are hoping will be a major fundraiser and get us more publicity. We are always looking for new members from the surrounding villages to join us as well."
- (b) Carpet Bowls: This group has some new members and is going well.
- (c) Craft & Chat: This is thriving and has grown. There was a short discussion about safety issues in the Grace Hudson Room due to the numbers and suggested the group be encouraged to use the main hall.
- (d) Harvest Home: Barbara Bolton reminded the meeting of the date of the Harvest Home which is Saturday 9th August. Tickets will be on sale shortly.
- (e) Café Hub: This is also thriving, and two new volunteers have been recruited to serve the cakes and coffee.
- (f) Methodist Church: Rosemary Gilling reported that Brent Knoll have made the decision to close due to lack of funds and numbers reducing to 4 members. The final service is likely to be in September. Some members will be transferring to East Brent. The church has started the process of stationing i.e. to obtain a new minister when Revd Steve Bennett retires in August 2026. A Scones and Songs event for Christian Aid (with the Allsorts Choir) is being arranged for Saturday 28th June at 3pm, tickets are £5.
- (g) Parish Church: Jane Watkins updated the meeting re the advertisement for a replacement minister which has now completed three rounds with no applications. On a positive note, Jan Bance has agreed to be a Churchwarden.
- (h) Parish Council: Somerset Highways Department are unable to provide any resolution on the parking dispute between the First School and the residents of Church Road.
- (i) Book Club: This has 10 attendees and is doing well.
- (j) Film Club: Julie Ward reported that after a slow start this now has a regular group of followers which includes residents from neighbouring villages and is breaking even. The film choices have been planned for the rest of 2025. Ice cream was served at

the last film night which was very popular (perhaps due to the hot weather!) and next time Pimms will be served. The film committee are nervous of showing a film specifically for children but have scheduled Paddington in Peru in December which is suitable for children and adults.

- (k) Table Tennis: Carol Howard reported 19 people have attended. 8 can play at any one time as there are two tables. One table was provided free of charge, the other is costing £200 for six months. It was agreed by the meeting that it would be sensible to look around for a table that can be purchased rather than rented. The first six weeks have been run free of charge and Hall Hire will need to be paid at the end of this period. A fee of £5 per session will be charged. They are hoping for some volunteers to take over the running of this in due course.

Item 10. VE/VJ Day:

Plans are in place for a tea party on 14 June, 3pm for 3.15pm. 12 tickets remain to be sold. 10 helpers have volunteered. Rosie has agreed to do the flowers. Setting up will be from 11am. More teapots are needed. Jane Watkins will carry out a Risk Assessment.

Item11: Premises/Health & Safety

- The electric re-wire is the main issue
- It was agreed to obtain a notice to stop people parking in front of the fire exit
- Safeguarding is carried out by the individual groups who use the hall although matters need to be reviewed when Kathy Quinnell (Safeguarding Officer) is available

Item 12: Certificate renewals

- PPL
- Lottery Licence for 200 Club

Item 13: Emergency Lighting/Fire Exit Audit

- Matt de Plege (Karate) is doing weekly checks.
- Jane Watkins checks the emergency lighting

Item 14: Any Other Business:

Batteries in the Fire Doors need replacing.
Rosie to update signage.

Item 15: Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 21 July 2025 at 7pm. The meeting closed at 8.40pm/

Confirmed as a true record of the meeting.....Date.....

Signed by Chairman/Vice Chairman (sign as appropriate)