

Wass and Byland Village Institute
Committee Meeting Minutes – 23rd April 2025 @ Village Hall

The meeting opened at 7pm

Present – Chair: John Marchant (JM), **Secretary :** Peter Williams(PW), Paul Robinson (PR), Simon Munnis(SM), Christine Bradley(CB), Ben Collins (BC), John Gaunt (JG) ,

Apologies –Treasurer : Paul Johnson (PJ), Olof Hagerstrand (OH), Tony Lacey (TL),
Linda Hencher (LH),

1. Minutes of previous meeting – 27th February 2025

- a. Secretary advised Ben Phillips should read Ben Collins > **Action: PW**
- b. **Management of the library.** Committee recognised the effort of Mick Tew in successfully setting up a working group to reorganise the library and opening from 14th April 2025 with preset access times published to the community – Position to be monitored > **Action: MT / Library group**
- c. **Village Hall forum** - Officers continue to attend this useful forum > **Action: PW / JM / PJ**
- d. **Hall entrance lampshades** – carried forward – awaiting electrician to convert > **Action: PW**
- e. **Community social evening** – “ A bit of a do” and short pantomime, took place on 28th February. Oh yes it did!!! – Successful event and well attended > **Action: - successful**
- f. **Village community litter pick** on Saturday 22nd March 2025. JM wished to record thanks to all those in the village who cleaned up all 3 routes in and out of Wass in exchange for coffee and cake after. The W.I. took the opportunity to spend the afternoon litter picking in Ampleforth.
 - a. PR commented that his litter pick on the road to Coxwold observed that motorhome / camper waste had been left in the large layby. CB agreed this was a PC issue > **Action: CB**
- g. **The solar panels** were cleaned 9th April > **Action : Closed**
- h. **The minutes** were accepted and approved for signing as a true record. > **Action: PW/PJ**
- i. Front door sticking was addressed and will be continually monitored > **Action: closed**

2. Finance

- a. The Treasurer’s report had been previously circulated to the committee.

Key points to note were:

- i. Reserves remained healthy at £15k with General Reserve set at £6,000 representing approximately 2 years expenses, and the balance will be held in the Maintenance Reserve with any re allocation to be agreed in conjunction with the committee.

- ii. PR enquired as to whether the Charities Commission can enforce the allocation / use of reserves. PW advised that there was no direct control though as in the previous item it was good practice to maintain an operational reserve and that committees should not “hoard reserves” but use for the benefit of the charity members.
- iii. The Treasurers report was accepted by the committee

3. Governance

- a. Committee members were asked to reconfirm their declaration > **Action: Completed**
- b. **Constitution** - The committee signed an approval form to adopt the constitution, as approved at the 27th February Committee and Annual General meeting > **Action: Completed**

4. Hall amenities

- a. PW proposed the purchase of another table tennis table as the remaining “old” table was becoming a H&S liability as to its opening function – estimate £1300.00. The group had between 8 -12 attendees on a regular basis and a new table would be an investment. The committee agreed to proceed with the new purchase > **Action: PW**
- b. The “old table” would be advertised for sale on Facebook/local marketplace > **Action: PW**

5. Activity update

- a. **Regular activities** continue as – table tennis, darts, carpet bowls , snooker. The billiards team has restarted, WI, Parish council . Library has reopened and three separate pilates sessions
- b. Church meeting for young mothers had completed a 3-month trial. Waiting for feedback as to next steps, two well attended coffee mornings and a Lent lunch.
- c. **Future events**
- d. **19th July - Art exhibition from Tom Handley** – PR to liaise with Tom to finalise the logistics for setting up, advertising , hall access etc – **Action: PR**
- e. **Indian cuisine community evening** – BC confirmed his contact was prepared to undertake such an event. A suitable Saturday evening was proposed . The final cost package and practicality / logistics for cooking to be agreed > **Action: BC.**
- f. **3rd May** – A local cyclist (Peter Smith) will be raising funds for the YAA by riding up / down Wass bank fifty-four times - equivalent to climbing Mt Everest. He has requested use of the car park and access to the hall to use the amenities for him and his supporters. The officers have agreed to the request and suggested donations to the “honesty box” would be appreciated. The hall will be open from 8am to 8pm with a monitoring presence to be implemented via the committee and community as a whole > **Action: JM / PW / PJ**
- g. **Paul Johnson** has independently offered to provide suitable refreshment / food for the participants and supporters > **Action: For information**
- g. **1st June** – hall use for open gardens. Planning was underway > **Action: For information**

6. Maintenance

- a. The main hall fire exit door had a rotten area / hole on bottom righthand corner. Quotes for a replacement door > **Action: PW**
- b. Committee agreed that the installation of “metal kick plates” on both sides of the door would be an effective solution > **Action: PW**
- c. PW advised that there were indications of water intrusion on the hall ceiling . An initial review of the roof area could not see any damage to tiles. A further inspection of the roof void was required to see if there was a leak - SM / BC offered to do > **Action: SM / BC**
- d. JM advised that the boiler was to have its annual service at the end of the month and he would take the opportunity for the service company / local plumber to review the operation of the heating controls to heat segmented areas to minimise unwanted heating areas . JG commented that in the snooker there was a long delay in heating once the boiler was activated > **Action: JM / PJ**

7. Correspondence

- a. None

8. Any other business

- a. Village Hall website – CB commented that personal agreement was required for use of adult / child pictures . Committee agreed > **Action: ALL**
- b. JG commented that there was an ongoing issue with the large drystone wall at the edge of the road / hall carpark being severely damaged by heavy goods vehicle. It appeared that some rectification had been undertaken to recent damage . PR to liaise with Tom the Waller to address the rebuild which would be funded by the village hall > **Action: PR**
- c. PR raised an issue regarding the suitability of the kitchen in respect of supporting activity for food / drink preparation for coffee mornings / open gardens etc whereby the number of people in the kitchen at any one time was a recipe for an accident to happen. CB further added her support to addressing accessible storage in the kitchen and an option to merge the kitchen with the adjacent committee room. General discussion took place as to the various options and the need for a cost / benefit proposal to be considered by the committee and wider community. Physical help could be sourced from the community, SM / BC / PR would help in some capacity. CB offered to take the lead in preparing design options and a draft proposal , following engagement with relevant tradesmen, for the committee meeting of 23rd July > **Action: CB**

The meeting closed at 7:48 pm

Next meeting Weds 23rd July 2025 Other meetings in 2025 : Thurs 23rd October