

Annual Parish Assembly

14th May 2025, 7.00pm

Padworth Village Hall

Councillors: Rob Jones (Chair), John Miller, Tom Tucker, Andrew Griffin, Andrew Williams, Johnathan Johnson

1. To receive apologies

Emily Robinson

2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting

Signed and approved for records

3. To receive the Parish Council annual report

2024 has seen significant shift in the Hall's financial security and offering to the public and it has benefitted from a very active and engaged management committee, who have devoted much personal time and effort to ensure that the hall is legally compliant and fit for purpose. On reviewing the objectives set out in this report last year we are pleased to note that all the objectives were achieved.

The Hall is now operating a 'self Service' model without an onsite caretaker. In October 2024 a live in Security Officer was recruited to undertake basic security duties such as opening and closing the site, monitoring the security cameras and dealing with the rubbish. The Security Officer lives on site and a full refurbishment of the accommodation was undertaken and completed in 2024 which meant that it could be rented to the employee for a near market rate. (Deductions are made for noise disturbance and hours worked). The cost of the refurbishment will be cleared by rental payments by the end of April 2025 meaning the accommodation will then make a significant contribution to the hall's income stream going forward.

2024 saw an increase in bookings and hall usage although more work is needed to increase daytime hires. Long term users have continued to use the facilities and we have attracted 2 new user groups. The Hall has a good reputation amongst the gaming community who continued to host gamer weekends.

The new Borehole project was completed and the water quality test certificate achieved. In addition, fund raising for a replacement rear fire door was undertaken and completed with the new doors and revised wheelchair access ramp in place in September.

Restricted finances have meant that, in the recent past, essential repairs have been left undone. The improved financial position has meant that excellent progress has been made in dealing with the back log. Work undertaken this year has included:

- Site clearance, including the sale of some unused items.
- The replacement of the garage roof and repairs to the roof of the accommodation
- The provision of a new fridge and Microwave
- The repair and levelling of the carpark surface
- The repair and levelling of the paving alongside the hall
- Refurbishment of the accommodation

In addition, the Parish Council replaced the roadside fencing and fencing enclosing the playground which was not compliant.

The summer highlight each year is the village show which is a mix of craft, entertainment and community social. Entry is free to customers with costs for hosting the show covered by sponsorship and grants from local sources. This year the hall also hosted, in partnership with a local school, the second November fireworks event. Attendance was substantially greater than in the previous year and a good reputation for the event has been built. The event was also a fundraiser for the hall through the sale of drinks and snacks. New for Summer 2025 is the Family Theatre picnic event in partnership with the Theatre group The Pantaloons. If successful it is hoped that this will become a regular feature in the summer calendar.

Cllr Miller has worked hard to source a repair for the leaking river, and hedgerows and verges have been monitored and cut back.

The Parish Council continues to support various local charities and oversee the management of the Village Hall.

4. To receive the Village Hall annual report

The Annual Financial report was shared with councillors and approved.

5. To record the time meeting closed

19.20

6. The meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting

PADWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

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