

Chair's Report

1 Opening remarks

2 Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes

Chair to seek approval.

3 Our Structure

3.1 Legal Structure

Our Minutes of the 2019 AGM explained our legal structure under which we have been running since then.

3.2 Committee Structure

Our current committee (Trustees and non-Trustees) comprises the following members:

Peter Gosney (deputy chair)
Julia Hanson-Abbott
Martina Lopez-Portillo
Chris Marsden
Helen McBeath (Chair)
John Stradling
John Walsh (Treasurer)
Jude Kay (Secretary)
Paige Newmark (PC rep)

All of whom will resign at this meeting as required by our Constitution. All have said that they would be prepared to stand for re-election.

We welcome interest in joining us from others, particularly someone with accountancy/business background to support our treasurer, JW.

I would like to thank all my current colleagues and past committee members who have given their time and expertise to carry on running this beautiful facility. Especially of course Geoff Mills, our previous chair, who led us so calmly and wisely through a slightly turbulent start to the new Beckley Hall we enjoy today. His time and experience were invaluable, and we all continue to miss his capable hand at the helm, he was of course a keen and knowledgeable sailor in addition to his many other accomplishments, including being CEO of a very successful engineering firm based in Shanghai!

I would also like to thank those wider members of our support community without whose commitment to help us we would not be able to operate effectively. Sadly, Adrian Hampshire who set up our website has moved to Woodstock. We wish him and Sue well there and thank him very much for looking after us and our website so well for over 9 years. Simon of Zinc Design has taken over the Forth Bridge task of updating and modernising our website. He will be taking on the PC website too, so we should hopefully join up in a seamless way.

4 We are supported on a commercial basis by a very dedicated and able team. Bookings Secretary, Mel Green, Facility Manager, Neil Appleby, and Cleaner, Vicky Widdowson, I thank them for their ongoing commitment and sterling service.

We also have several villagers whom we call on from time to time for additional support. They know who they are, and I thank them for their continuing help. Indeed, as a village we are very fortunate with the extent of community support we receive.

5 The CIO "Objects" are defined in our CIO Constitution that governs our activities, and which we must respect. They are to establish and run a village hall and to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Beckley and Stowood ("area of benefit") without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

6 Balancing Commercial Activities and Village Support

So, we are not a commercial business. We are bound by law not to make a profit, and we are bound by our Objects to act in your best interests. However, we cannot deliver those objects without income and so need to encourage limited commercial use of the Hall. Nevertheless, we fully recognise that we must balance income generation against the potential impact to residents and particularly near neighbours by making too aggressive a use of the Hall for commercial reasons. We have indeed turned away business because of concerns about local impact. I am pleased to report that limiting the hours of hire to 8 am to 11pm seem to have reduced noise and disturbance to our nearby neighbours. Please let us know if any issues do arise and we will try hard to make sure those culpable to not repeat their misdemeanors!

6 Booking Report

Attached and shown on the screen is our latest booking report and I am indebted to our Booking Secretary – Mel Green - for its preparation. I would draw your attention to the following. Our 2025 one off hire are down on 2024 which was a particularly good year, with a one-man week long art show. However, our regular local hires are slowly creeping up.

- Commercial income continues to allow us to hold down charges for village activities. Of our total annual income of £2501.50 for the past twelve months some £1889.50 Was from commercial and non-village hires.
- We have supported 21 regular weekly or monthly village hires compared to 18 in the year ending March 2024
- The leisure activities in the Hall include:

Table Tennis, Pilates, Spinning and Weaving, Art Group, Bells, Sewing Group, and Village Events like Guy Faulkes night.

Beckley Handbell Group

The Beckley Handbell Group of twelve meet every Tuesday afternoon for an enjoyable, sometimes challenging time of making music & keeping our brains active. An uplifting & enjoyable time with members showing huge commitment & some travelling quite a distance to participate.

Pilates

The Beckley Pilates class happens every Tuesday morning at 9.15-10.15. All abilities are welcome and lots of options are given during the class. Pilates improves posture and core strength, increases muscular balance and flexibility. Please contact Kim Barresi on 07918180392 for more details or just turn up to try the class. "Cleanest hall I hire"!

The Sewing Group

The sewing group which meets once a month on the first Wednesday afternoon from 2-5 is now entering its third year and has a nucleus of regular attenders. Our membership currently stands at 14. We have between us a large range of experience, talent and skills which we can share. We welcome anyone interested to drop in and join us for tea and biscuits and see what we are up to.

Art Group

The Beckley Art Group continues to flourish, meeting every Friday morning 9:30 to 13:00. There are 24 members with approximately 16 present each Friday. We are now at capacity. In addition to Beckley residents, we have members from around the area. We regularly change the artwork in the pub (in the end barn, organised by June Dent) and the phone box (organised by Liz Bixby). Each year we have exhibited in the Stanton shop window for a couple of months (March and April, organised by John Hazell), and this year we will be putting on our 7th annual exhibition in Beckley Hall, Saturday and Sunday, October 11th and 12th.

John Stradling (chairman).

7 CPR training/refreshers session on June 12th at 7.30 pm, thanks to Community First Responders, (CFR) volunteers. Please let me or Jane Appleton know if you would like to attend this free session.

8 Collaboration with other village groups

We have a good working relationship with the Church and the Pub and aim to focus on collaborative and non-competing activities. We have shared equipment with both.

9 150 Club

We are indebted to the 150 Club for their past financial support and especially to Dave Drew who has agreed to continue to run it for us. The club has helped us to purchase the EV charger in the car park so locals and visitors can charge their electric vehicles, and helped fund the redecoration of the main hall. It is funding a proper bin enclosure, with cedar wood construction to match BH and hide those beautiful Grundon bins!

10 Landlord's Support

Finally I would like to thank our landlord (the Parish Council) for their support.

Appendix 1

Newsletter Announcement and Format of Printed Notices for 2025 Village Hall AGM

The 2025 Annual General Meeting for the Beckley and Stowood Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Beckley Village Hall Trust – registered charity number 1167429) will take place after the Annual Open Parish Meeting which will take place on Monday 19th May at 7 pm in the village hall. The Village Hall AGM will be held immediately following that meeting with an estimated start time of 8.30pm.

The documents for the meeting will be posted at least two weeks in advance on the Village Hall website on the following web page:

<http://beckleyvillagehall.org/agm.php> where the minutes of the AGM will also be posted once approved by the Trustees.

These documents will include Agenda, Chairman's Report, Treasurer's Report and accounts, Booking Secretary's Report and Facilities Manager's Report.

Should you wish to attend and raise any matter at the meeting you should give advance notice to the Chair – helen.mcbeath@doctors.net.uk. Only matters on which advance notices have been given will be discussed