

RUSLAND READING ROOM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON 21 MAY 2015

1. In attendance were:

Mike Benham, Elsie Wilkinson, Gordon Wilkinson, David Robinson, Giles Wingate-Saul, Mandy Lane and Angus Adams

Apologies were received from : John Dixon, John Walton, Anne Robinson and Natalie Bibby

2. Minutes

Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 May 2014 were approved

3. Appointment of Officers and Committee

Elsie Wilkinson informed the meeting that she wished to retire from the committee. With regret this was accepted. She was thanked for all the work she had done over the years for the Reading Room.

Mandy Lane was reelected as Chair (proposed by EW, seconded by GW-S)
Giles Wingate-Saul and Angus Adams were reelected as Treasurer and Secretary respectively and all other committee members were reappointed.

The present committee will thus comprise:

John Dixon (as Vicar), Giles Wingate-Saul (for PCC), Gordon Wilkinson (for RVHS), David Robinson, Anne Robinson, John Walton, Natalie Bibby, Mike Benham, Mandy Lane and Angus Adams.

It was proposed that Rachel Lumsden and David Hoyle be asked to join. Both had said they would. RL would then represent the WI and DH Colton PC. AA is to write to both of them to confirm.

4. Accounts and Financial Report

G W-S produced the accounts he had prepared for the year to 31 March 2015 and made his report. This shows a surplus of income over expenditure of £1668.53 though income was inflated as it comprised two Spring Show receipts. Capital is almost £9000 which is healthy considering recent work carried out to the roof and front door.

Cost of oil had been fairly high as more seems to have been used but this was countered by savings with electricity. The main cost item as always is insurance. Although election poll receipts have gone there is a new income source through chain saw classes by M Elborne. Both Spring Show receipts were very good.

Future expenditure will comprise cost of new gates, and, perhaps, the lining of the main room walls to counter damp, before redecoration itself.

5. Fabric Report

GW-S reported that a slate at the back has slipped. He'd taken this up with Martin Hool whose response was disappointing. David Oldham had inspected this and found screws

were holding adjacent slates and not copper nails as specified for the roof. M Hool had made an excuse relating to the size of copper nails available and had said that it was not unexpected that slates could move within 2/3 years.

ML and GW-S confirmed that the front gates need replacing. After discussion it was decided that widening of the opening would be an improvement and that two gates of equal size should then be installed. Only one of the pillars need be moved, which a working party could sort out. The existing hinges could be reused. ML thought an application could be made for grant funding to assist though this would entail obtaining three quotes. Bamfords were mentioned as a possible source.

With regard to the continuing damp problem a working party of GW-S, MB and GW was set up who are to report back after considering the options. MB thought the increase of ventilation would greatly assist and should be tried first before the expense of wall lining was incurred. EW reported that the rooms need a thorough clean. AW is to organise a cleaning party. With particular reference to the windows GW-S will obtain a quote from his window cleaner which might also cover the required painting.

6. Charges

ML thought these were low in comparison with other halls. She proposed (seconded by MB) that the evening charge for locals go up from £12 to £15 and the half day for locals increase from £20 to £25. Also a full day for locals should then be £35. It was felt after discussion that the charges for outsiders should remain the same (i.e. £20 for evenings, £30 for half days and £65 for full days). As before there would be a £3 extra charge for evenings if the kitchen was used.

GW-S offered to make a new notice of charges.

7. RVHS Chairs

Generally it was noted by ML that consent of the RVHS committee should be obtained before using them. This had been pointed out after a Rusland Horizons event. GW pointed out that historically RVHS had always been allowed to hold meetings at no charge in return for free use of chairs subject to the proviso that they were not needed at the same time - e.g. for weddings. He said that he normally discusses future events with Tom Watson.

8. Past Events

The Spring Show had been a great success. GW-S raised the need to drum up more involvement with Penny Bridge Academy.

GW confirmed that he wished to bow out from running the Spring Show. ML suggested that a volunteer organiser be sought. Perhaps we'll need to advertise for one. ML thanked GW and EW for all the work they had done in organising the Spring Shows.

9. Future dates

GW thought domino evenings could be held along the lines of the recent one he'd organised to raise church funds which had been a great success. Catering could be made simpler.

ML suggested a musical end supper event with the group Taxi. She's to have a word with AW and with Rob Dove and Rod Demick.

10. Chair's Report

ML confirmed that generally all appears to be going well. As noted there are several things to be attended to. She again thanked GW and EW for all their past work and input.

11. Other Business

GW-S thanked ML for taking over as Chair.

12. Date of Next Meeting

This was fixed for 12 May 2016.