

The Tiddy Hall

Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

*Founded and given to the village by
R. Tiddy, Esq., in 1912*

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

MINUTES

10th March 2026

19:00

Mulberry House

1. Present
John Bugeja (JB), Andrew Weaver (AW), Cathy Ferrier (CF), Lorna Bates (LB) and Mark Pidgeon (MP)
2. Apologies
Kathy Gale (KG)
3. Conflicts
None
4. Minutes of previous meeting
Approved and signed
5. Matters arising:
 - a. Purchase chair stacking trolley – outstanding – **AW to action**
 - b. Overhanging branches to be cut-back – **Completed**
 - c. KG to be added to WhatsApp group – **Completed**
 - d. Health & Safety Policy to be shared with trustees – **Completed**
 - e. KG to be added to Charity Commission Register – **AW to confirm**
 - f. KG to sign Charity Commission Declaration – **AW to confirm**
 - g. KG to review Health & Safety Policy and develop an action plan to ensure compliance – **deferred due to KG's absence – KG to action**
 - h. Air Ambulance clothes bank to be installed – **To be delivered by the end of May 2026**
 - i. Donation by Stephen Shepherd – **AW to chase**
 - j. MP to add donation page to website – **MP advised that page is under construction.**
6. Booking & Marketing Report:
 - a. Notable bookings
 - i. No new bookings – however the schedule is quite full so we are operating close to capacity.

- ii. A furniture supplier has expressed an interest in booking the hall. Awaiting confirmation.
- b. Cancellations
 - i. No material cancellations since the last meeting

7. Treasurer's report

- a. 2026 budget has been finalised.
- b. YTD is slightly adverse to plan due to higher than expected electricity costs and some one-off expenditure (e.g. the annual solar panel maintenance contract).
- c. Heaters need to be reprogrammed or possibly switched off altogether as weather improves. This will reduce electricity costs significantly. At the same time, the solar panels will generate increasing levels of energy, reducing costs still further.
- d. Pre-school pricing – this is due for renegotiation shortly. **AW to action.** Key points:
 - i. Pre-school do not currently pay for cleaning (contrary to hire agreement). Proposal is to add one hour to each day's booking to cover cleaning costs.
 - ii. Hourly rate was increased last year to £11.25. Ideally, this should be increased again. **AW to check pre-school financials lodged with the Charity Commission to gauge the scope for a further increase.**
 - iii. Pre-school's use of our storage facilities continues to be a source of concern. Ideally, we need to reclaim at least half of the storeroom for storing chairs and tables in order to enable us to make best use of the stage (see separate item under 'Fundraising'). **AW to negotiate a suitable charge for storage and agree a compromise that allows us to store our equipment.**

8. Fundraising

- a. Crowdfunding is going well with over £2,400 generated to date. This includes two large donation (£500 each) by village residents and a donation by the village charity (£500). Liz Leffman will donate £500 from OCC. CF has approached the District Councillor for a donation but has not had a response. The WODC contribution will be known by early April. We need to push for more donations:
 - i. **MP to design and organise posters and flyers (for notice boards and distribution)**
 - ii. **MP to share flyer with The Grapevine for publication**
 - iii. **CF to talk to Lionhearth (owners of The Swan) about a possible donation.**
 - iv. **CF to talk to Hawkstone about a possible donation.**
 - v. **AW to talk to Hook Norton Brewery about a possible donation**
- b. Given progress of the crowdfunding initiative, it was agreed that we could progress the plans to replace the stage and install new stage curtains. **MP to arrange for stage contractor to visit the hall and meet the trustees to discuss the requirements in more detail.** Our key requirements were summarised as follows:

- i. The stage height should remain the same
 - ii. Sufficient storage should be incorporated to accommodate the PA system and some of the tables.
 - iii. Ideally, the stage should extend to the full width of the room, to allow us to incorporate 'wings' in the design. This is dependent on sufficient storage space being found in the storeroom (see earlier comment regarding the pre-school). As a compromise, we should explore the possibility of extending the stage on one side only, with a flexible design that would allow the 'wings' section to be folded away to allow for storage when the stage is not in use.
 - iv. The stage can be extended forward to meet point where the stairs currently start. The stairs themselves should either be inset into the stage or designed to be stored under the stage when not in use.
 - v. The stage should be carpeted in charcoal grey.
 - vi. The stage curtains will be in a red material (to match the chairs) and will be positioned in line with the current (fixed) curtains.
 - vii. **CF to talk to the supplier to explore the possibility of having the curtains motorised.**
- c. With regard to the funding for the three sets of patio/fire-exit doors, CF advised that Bernard Sunley had requested additional information before making a decision. This is quite encouraging as it means that they are not rejecting the proposal out of hand. It remains to be seen how much they might contribute.

9. Events

- a. Plans for Flix in the Stix are complete.
- i. **JB will manage the projector and sound system**
 - ii. **LB will run the raffle and may help out behind the bar if required.**
 - iii. **MP will run the bar.**
 - iv. **Raffle prizes: Sat Nav (MP), Dash Cam (AW), Chocolates (JB), Prosecco (Tiddy Hall).**
 - v. **AW to approach Hook Norton Brewery about the possibility of providing a prize.**
- b. CF advised that plans for the village panto are well advanced. A script has been drafted and will be refined over the coming months. A communication has gone out to village residents and will be supported by other PR initiatives. Dates for auditions and rehearsals have been set.
- i. The performances will take place on Friday 4th December and Saturday 5th December. It was originally intended that there should also be a matinee on 5th December, but this was subsequently scrapped.
 - ii. The stage will be set up on the Friday and will be broken down on the Saturday, after the second performance.
 - iii. JB and MP subsequently agreed with the stage school that the chairs could remain in place as they will be using them on the Saturday. It was agreed that they could use the stage, but could not move any of the props/backgrounds etc.

10. Capital Expenditure/Maintenance

- a. Soft play surface to be required now that the water leak has been fixed. **JB to action.**
- b. Fire Risk Assessment items to be actioned as part of the Health & Safety review. **KG to action.**
- c. Infrared panel solution for supplementary heating to be explored further. **JB/MP to action.**

11. Bar duties. **ACTION: All committee members to provide details of availability for subsequent dates.**

- a. 21/3/26 - **AW and LB**
- b. 11/4/26 - **LB**
- c. 2/5/26
- d. 23/5/26
- e. 6/6/26
- f. 11/7/26 (Jazz Night)
- g. 5/9/26
- h. 24/10/26
- i. 21/11/26
- j. 19/12/26

12. AOB

- a. MP advised that car parking had been requested by Puddleducks (Swimming Club). It was agreed that, as this was only to drop off and collect once per week, this could be accommodated and that they would be invited to make a donation to help cover costs.
- b. MP received a request to host a comedy night on the basis that we pay the comic and don't charge for the hall hire. The comic would additionally take a share of the ticket sales. In essence, we would be acting as the 'promotor' of the event and would be taking the financial risk. The opportunity was declined.
- c. Metal trolley to be removed from area next to clothes bank. **LB to discuss with family member.**
- d. Bar area must not be used for storage by the stage school. **MP to discuss with stage school.**
- e. Committee room must be left in usable condition by the stage school. **MP to discuss with stage school**

13. Date of next meeting

13/5/26 (7pm) at Tiddy Hall



John Bugeja
Chair
The Tiddy Hall
5th April 2026