

The Tiddy Hall Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

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

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ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

Minutes Annual General Meeting 24th July 2025

1. Present
 - a. JB, JacB, MP & PP
 - b. Cathy Ferrier (CF) who has agreed to join the committee
 - c. Andrew Weaver (AW) who agreed during the AGM to join the committee as Treasurer
 - d. Approximately 25 village residents were also in attendance
2. Apologies
 - a. LB
3. Conflicts
 - a. There are no items on the agenda that would give rise to any conflicts of interests.
4. Chairman's Review and Financial report
 - a. A written report was distributed to trustees in advance and copies made available to other attendees during the AGM (copy attached).
 - b. JB noted that the report and accounts for the year to 31st May 2025 had been prepared and were awaiting audit by Paul White. The draft report was distributed to attendees (copy attached)
 - c. JB summarised Tiddy Hall's financial performance during the year to 31st May 2025. In particular, JB noted the following:
 - i. The accounts show a cash deficit of £28,618.15 on a turnover of £31,161.11.
 - ii. The exceptional cash deficit was due in large part to capital expenditure incurred during the year to 31st May 2025 for which a grant had been received during the year to 31st May 2024. In addition, a number of invoices were paid during the year that were due the previous year. Finally, the heating system had to be replaced during the year resulting in an unbudgeted capital cost of nearly £11,000. Accounting for these anomalies and exceptional items, Tiddy Hall operated with a modest surplus on a 'business as usual' basis.
 - d. JB noted that a budget had been prepared for the year to 31st May 2026 which includes £10,000 for capital expenditure/repairs/maintenance. Following the actions taken to increase income (more bookings, fundraising events and a modest price increase) and to reduce costs (solar panels, batteries and LED lights) we are budgeting for a surplus of £2,120.

- e. JB noted that we have a long list of repairs/capital expenditure items, not all of which can not be funded within the £10,000 budget so careful prioritisation will be required. Any capital expenditure in excess of £10,000 will have to be funded by additional fundraising activity (over and above that already in the budget) to avoid eroding our reserves.
- f. A question was raised regarding the capital expenditure/repairs envisaged. JB advised that the following had been identified though, in practice, only the first two items are likely to be possible in the current year without significant additional fundraising:
 - i. Remedial action following the recent Fire Risk Assessment (e.g. fire-retardant treatment to stage curtains, new/additional signage, refitting double doors from lobby to hall so that they open outward from the hall to ease escape etc)
 - ii. Additional chairs
 - iii. Thermal curtains to patio doors to reduce heat loss.
 - iv. New patio doors
 - v. Redecoration (inside and outside)
 - vi. New stage with built-in storage

5. Volunteers/Trustees

- a. JB noted that the committee currently lacks the resources to manage Tiddy Hall effectively. The Tiddy Hall constitution specifies that there should be nine trustees forming the management committee. We currently have just five committee members, two of whom will be standing down shortly after many years of effective service. JB advised that Cathy Ferrier has agreed to join the committee where her previous experience in the charity sector will be invaluable.
- b. JB is currently fulfilling three roles (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) having agreed to stand-in as Treasurer following the resignation of the previous incumbent. This is, however, completely untenable not least from a governance perspective due to the lack of separation of responsibilities. During the meeting, Andrew Weaver agreed to join the committee as Treasurer. Lorna Bates has already agreed to take up the role of Secretary but hasn't started yet. These two appointments will address the governance issue. JB has agreed to continue as Chair.
- c. Notwithstanding the arrival of Cathy Ferrier and Andrew Weaver, the committee is still short of its ideal number. We will aim to identify four additional trustees over the coming months but believe that the committee will be viable with two additional trustees, making a total of seven.
- d. It was agreed that all attendees, including village residents, would speak to neighbours to encourage them to volunteer to support Tiddy Hall. Volunteers need not all become trustees, though we do need at least two and preferably four additional members. Volunteers could simply offer their services in respect of specific events or activities.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. JB had circulated a list of functions that need to be managed by the management committee (copy attached). A number of village residents questioned whether the identification of such functions might act as a deterrent as people might feel they lack the requisite expertise. JB acknowledged that this might be the case but noted that he wanted people to join the committee in the knowledge that each committee member would be required to do some work.
- b. With the exception of the roles of Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Booking Clerk, all of which have now been assigned to named individuals, the other functions will only require occasional activity. So long as the functions are shared across the committee, the workload will be very modest and not at all onerous. All but one of the remaining functions (Premises Management) relate to policies which have recently been written and approved in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines.
- c. In reality, each committee member should have at least one functional area of responsibility.

7. Fundraising Events

- a. JB encouraged all attendees to attend the planned Dinner Dance on 30th August and to spread the word amongst friends, neighbours and family members. He noting that previous events had been very enjoyable and successful though numbers have not always been as high as we would have liked.
- b. A Craft Fair is scheduled for 15th November 2025. This will be organised by JacB and Mary Barnes. Again, volunteers are encouraged to get involved.
- c. Pete moss repeated his invitation to help organise a Race Night. This is likely to be scheduled for Spring 2026 so as not to clash with the Fishing Club Race Night later this year.
- d. Simon Gidman volunteered to organise a Film Night. If it is well supported, this might be reintroduced as a regular event.
- e. Simon Gidman volunteered to organise another musical evening following the success of the previous event that he organised in collaboration with Bob Chilcott.
- f. John Cull volunteered to organise a weekly Pickleball activity. This will start with one, two-hour session per week but may be increased to two, two-hour sessions if sufficient demand exists.

8. Sponsorship

- a. JB noted that a sponsorship agreement had been arranged with James Withy (Ted George Estate Agents). Further details would be communicated in due course. James has agreed to produce notice boards (resembling Ted George 'For Sale' signs) along thoroughfares in the village advertising the Dinner Dance and future fundraising events. He will require volunteers from the village community give permission to have a sign erected at the front of their houses for up to two weeks prior to the event.

9. Feedback from Villagers

- a. Feedback was received throughout the meeting and this is incorporated above, in the appropriate sections.

- b. Feedback was very positive, with many residents being willing to offer their views and suggestions. The active engagement of the community is essential to the future viability of Tiddy Hall.
- c. JB thanked everyone for their attendance and active involvement.



John Bugeja
Chair
29th August 2025