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
29th October 2026

1. Present:
    a. (JB, AW, CF and MP)
    b. Five village residents also attended.
2. Welcome:
    a. JB welcomed the villagers and explained the running order.
3. Financial Report:
    a. AW advised that the year-end had changed to 31st December. As a consequence, the figures that he would present relate to just seven months. Key highlights include:
        i. Total income - £14,051
        ii. Total expenditure - £10,611
        iii. Surplus - £3,440.
        iv. Cash funds at year-end - £32,207
        v. 73% of income came from Hall Hire, of which AuW Preschool was the biggest contributor. It was noted that the fundraising did not impact the financials until after the year-end.
        vi. The biggest single cost was Cleaning (23%) followed by Energy (20%). It was noted that Utilities overall accounted for 33% of costs.
        vii. The current year-to-date (January – September 2026) shows the impact of the very successful fundraising activities recently completed. Funds received from this initiative accounted for 41% of total income. Though the Preschool remains the single biggest hirer, it was noted that significant contributions are now being seen from The Cotswolds Stage School and the Pickleball Club.
    b. A copy of AW's slides is appended to these minutes.
4. Usage Update:
    a. MP noted that a number of regular hirers were no longer using the hall (Fitness with Alex, Post Office, Qigong, Piano Lessons and Core Focus). In addition, there had been a marked reduction in the number of private parties booking the hall.
    b. The hall continues to be well used, however, with regular hirers such as Preschool and Wychwood Folk Club amongst the heavier users. In addition, Tiddy Hall is now the home of the Cotswolds Stage School, CSS Singing Lessons and the recently formed Pickleball Club.

c. The hall is also used for one-off events such as teak furniture sales, an annual quiz night, at least one Fishing Club event per year, two Flix in the Stix events per year and two 3PS fundraiser gigs per year.
d. The Village panto will make a very welcome return this year after an absence of eight years.
e. MP advised that he had undertaken a price comparison with other village halls in the area. Tiddy Hall's charges in detail may be found on the website, but the highlights of standard charges are:
    i. Main hall (Sunday to Friday) - £15 per hour
    ii. Main hall (Saturday) - £17 per hour
    iii. Committee Room - £11 per hour
    iv. Weddings - £550
a. By way of comparison:
    i. Milton charges up to £16 per hour on weekdays, £22 per hour on Saturdays and £17 per hour on Sundays
    ii. Shipton (New Beaconsfield Hall) charges up to £20 per hour (Sunday – Thursday), £25 per hour (Friday) and £29.50 per hour (Saturday). They charge £950 for weddings and £80 for Children's Parties (2 hours)
    iii. Charlbury charges up to £20 per hour
    iv. Chadlington charges up to £20 per hour
    v. Leafield charges up to £16 per hour
b. It should be noted that many of the above-mentioned village halls offer discounted rates for regular hirers and for particular categories of hirer (e.g. charities may pay less than businesses or individuals). Tiddy Hall also offers discounts for regular hirers.
c. On balance, Tiddy Hall's fees appear to be quite reasonable and certainly not 'out of the market'.

5. Fundraising Update:
    a. CF's slides are appended to these minutes. Key points include:
        i. Funds were raised from individual members of the community, local government, the AuW Village Charity, AuW Parish Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Wychwood Folk and Acoustic Club. In addition, large donations were received from the National Lottery, Bernard Sunley Foundation and Cottsway Housing
        ii. In total, the fundraising initiative generated £37,314.
    b. The funds will pay for:
        i. New stage curtains - £7,244
        ii. Stage extension (phase 1) - £3,004
        iii. Stage extension (phase 2) - £1,500
        iv. New stage carpet - £1,500
        v. New hardwood front door and patio/fire-exit doors - £25,238
    c. This has been a hugely successful fundraising initiative.
    d. This initiative was, of course, additional to the regular fundraising activities undertaken by Tiddy Hall volunteers (e.g. 3PS Dinner Dances).
6. The Village Panto:
    a. CF noted that rehearsals were now well in progress and all cast-members were working hard to ensure they are fully prepared to perform on 4th and 5th

December.
   b. Some additional support will be required to programme the stage lighting.
   c. Ticket sales are going well, particularly for the Saturday performance.
7. Chairman's Review:
   a. The Chairman's Statement is appended to these minutes.
8. Q&A/Feedback:
   a. It was noted that many AuW residents attend Yoga classes at Milton under Wychwood Village Hall. Ideally, such classes would be held at Tiddy Hall. Availability during the day is, however, limited as the hall is used by Preschool during the day. Nevertheless, we will explore options to attract this type of regular booking. It was also noted that classes such as this require a warm environment, even in the depths of winter. Our heating system, as noted elsewhere, struggles to maintain an acceptable temperature when outside temperatures plummet. The planned installation of supplementary infrared heating will address this issue, making Tiddy Hall more attractive for hirers.
   b. It was noted that the planned positioning of the new storage shed is far from ideal, as chairs and tables will have to be moved across the car park and patio when needed by hirers. It was felt that it was not reasonable to expect hirers to do this themselves, meaning that committee members would have to make themselves available when required. JB agreed that the solution represented a significant compromise and noted that the committee's preference had been to use the large storage room adjacent to the stage. That space is, however, used by AuW Preschool leaving no space whatsoever for Tiddy Hall's equipment. We will do what we can to make the solution, sub-optimal though it is, work.
   c. Concern was expressed regarding the 'hole' in the car park and it was noted that one or two other maintenance items (e.g. the faulty sink in the kitchen) had been outstanding. The car park has since been repaired and contractors have been approached regarding the other issues. JB noted, however, that the committee continued to be severely under-resourced. We simply don't have enough people available to do all of the things that we need or would like to do in a timely manner. We currently have just five active members of the committee. The Tiddy Hall Declaration of Trust specifies that there should be nine trustees. In practice, we could probably manage with seven active trustees/committee members.
   d. Following on from the previous point, JB noted that two of the five active committee members had been in situ for several years. According to the Tiddy Hall Declaration of Trust, trustees should resign after three years and offer themselves for re-election of they so wish. Given the current resourcing constraints, we cannot currently comply with this requirement. JB reiterated that we need more volunteers, not all of whom need to become trustees. Some can join the committee without being a trustee and others could make themselves available from time to time to support specific activities. JB advised that he would be happy to create a register of 'ad hoc' volunteers who would be happy to be called upon to support Tiddy Hall as and when they have some availability.
9. Close

a. JB thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting.

John Bugeja

John Bugeja
Chair
29th October 2026