

The Tiddy Hall Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxon

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

ADMINISTERED BY LOCAL TRUSTEES

MINUTES

13th January 2026
19:00
Mulberry House

1. Present

John Bugeja (JB), Andrew Weaver (AW), Cathy Ferrier (CF) and Mark Pidgeon (MP)

2. Guest

Kathy Gale (KG)

3. Apologies

Lorna Bates (LB)

4. Conflicts

None

5. Minutes of previous meeting

Approved and signed

6. Matters arising:

- a. AW to arrange for Tiddy Hall to become a member of the Hook Norton Brewery in order to obtain a discount - **Completed**
- b. AW to change financial year end to 31st December with the Charity Commission - **Completed**
- c. JB to add AW to Charity Commission Register - **Completed**
- d. AW to take admin role with regard to the Charity Commission Register and update it as required - **Completed**
- e. CF to obtain a gift voucher from The Swan as a raffle prize for the Christmas Concert raffle - **Completed**
- f. AW to obtain a raffle prize from Hook Norton Brewery for the Christmas Concert - **Completed**
- g. MP to purchase chair stacking trolley – **As MP does not have a Tiddy Hall debit card, this action will be taken up by AW**
- h. MP to obtain quotes for a new stage – **ACTION:**
 - i. **MP is progressing enquiries.**
 - ii. **KG noted that she knows a carpenter and will contact him for a**

quote as well

- i. CF to obtain quotes for a second-hand industrial oven – **Completed (nothing suitable found). ACTION: The need to review the effectiveness of the existing oven remains a priority.**
- j. AW to obtain quotes for a fridge/freezer for the kitchen (to store drinks and ice for the bar) – **ACTION: AW to follow up**
- k. MP to arrange for overhanging branches to be cut back in the spring – **Completed (work to be undertaken by Robbie in the spring)**

7. Trustee Recruitment

- a. Kathy Gale (KG) was proposed by MP and seconded by CF. The committee voted unanimously for KG to join as trustee. **ACTION:**
 - i. **JB to add KG to WhatsApp Group**
 - ii. **JB to share information regarding Health & Safety policy and guidance notes for trustees**
 - iii. **AW to add KG to the Charity Commission Register**
 - iv. **AW to ask KG to sign Charity Commission declaration (as a fit and proper person to be a trustee)**
 - v. **KG offered to take responsibility for our Health and Safety policy (including fire safety).**

8. Booking & Marketing Report

- a. Notable bookings
 - i. The regular booking by The Cotswold Stage School starts on Saturday 17th January. They will also use the committee room to provide singing lessons (using our electric piano). This is an excellent development that will provide regular revenue.
 - ii. A Pilates class is moving to Tiddy Hall from Churchill Village Hall during the refurbishment of the latter. It is hoped that they will decide to continue at Tiddy Hall rather than move back to Churchill.
 - iii. We continue to attract private parties (e.g. birthday parties)
- b. Cancellations
 - i. No material cancellations since the last meeting
- c. Other matters
 - i. The Air Ambulance Service has asked whether we can accommodate another clothes bank. This will be additional to the existing Children's Air Ambulance clothes bank. This was agreed – **ACTION: MP to advise them accordingly**
 - ii. Following a recent incident in which a hirer was not able to access the hall due to the key safe code having been changed, MP requested agreement to sharing the contact details of all trustees with hirers. Any key safe code changes will continue to be shared via the trustee WhatsApp group forum.
 - iii. MP advised that a donation has been offered by Stephen Shepherd.

ACTION:

- 1. **AW to make contact with the donor and provide banking details.**

2. MP to add a donation button to the home page of the Tiddy Hall website.

9. Treasurer's report

- a. Year-end report (to 31st December 2025)
 - i. AW provided draft statements for the 7 months to 31st December 2025, which is now our financial year-end.
 - ii. Total revenue was £14,441 against a budget of £16,333 (negative variance of £1,892)
 - iii. Total expenditure was £10,983 against a budget of £15,855 (positive variance of £4,872)
 - iv. Net surplus was £3,458 against a budget of £478 (positive variance of £2,980)
- b. Christmas concert financial review
 - i. We made around £1,000 in ticket sales, raffle tickets and bar sales. It was estimated that bar related costs would have been around £200, resulting in a net contribution of around £800. It was agreed that this was an excellent outcome. To put this into context, this is the equivalent of 53 hours of hiring fees at £15 per hour.
- c. Discussion regarding 2026 budget.
 - i. AW proposed budget of £28,000 (revenue), £27,180 (expenditure) and £820 (surplus). After discussion, it was felt that the revenue budget was perhaps a little too conservative – **ACTION: AW to revise the budget and re-share**

10. Fundraising

- a. CF presented a summary of actions taken to date and proposed a revised strategy for obtaining grants. High-level details are as follows:
 - i. Rejected from Connected Communities Fund
 - ii. WODC - only open funding is the Westhive crowd funding platform.
 - iii. CF is registered to attend the Project Creator Workshop for Westhive tomorrow 14th Jan at 1.15
 - iv. FCC Community Action Fund - needs to be 10 miles from an FCC site, we are not eligible
 - v. Fire and Safety Solutions - registered, although this is a commercial company they might give preferred rates
 - vi. Registered with Fundin - this led CF to a few new sources of funding
 - vii. Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, do give grants from £5k to over £20k and will fund capital costs. We are eligible, funding application in process, closes 24th March
 - viii. SUEZ community Fund - not eligible
 - ix. National Lottery Awards for All ups to £20K, closes 24th March, application will be progressed, following discussion
 - x. Other activity, registered Tiddy Hall for Village Halls week, 16th to 22nd March, bunting and posters, with Community First Oxfordshire, on ACRE website
- b. CF noted that grant providers are not interested in funding simple capital

expenditure or maintenance contracts (e.g. new fire exit doors, thermal curtain etc) but are much more excited by projects that involve new activities that engage the broader community more effectively and promote greater social inclusion.

CF emphasised the need to be creative in drafting our proposal. Potential examples of 'new' ventures include facilitating activities associated with the arts, drama and music. Such projects could include a new stage incorporating storage capacity for the PA system, stage curtains (to open a close across the stage), new fire exit doors to enable more effective evacuation of the larger audiences that such events would attract (which would also be much more energy efficient, enabling the hosting of such events all year round with greatly reduced environmental impact).

Examples of such activities include stage productions by the Cotswold Stage School, pantomimes, dramatic productions, jazz nights, classical music evenings, mummers' plays, educational events and so on. These would complement the existing folk nights and live music dinner dances. Our aim should be to make Tiddy Hall more attractive to artistes/performers etc from all walks of life and to facilitate much greater social inclusion. Being the village hall, Tiddy Hall should become the social hub and focal point of the community.

It was noted that grant-based fundraising is additional to regular fundraising events and donations.

Action:

- i. **CF to draft funding proposal and share with committee for review and feedback prior to submission**
- ii. **All committee members to support CF with background information regarding Tiddy Hall, its users, Ascott under Wychwood and neighbouring villages as required**

11. Events

- a. Flix in the Stix provisionally booked by Simon Gidman on 14th March 2026. JB noted that the term 'Flix in the Stix' is protected by trademark, so cannot be used in connection with this event. This will be regarded as a test case to determine whether a programme of such events will be viable in the future (as it used to be pre-COVID). We need to decide whether the film should be accompanied by a meal, which would add to the cost/ticket price and indeed to the financial risk (should insufficient tickets be sold) but might make the event more attractive from a social perspective. If we do decide to include a meal, catering arrangements would need to be made and we would need to ensure that we are confident that the oven will not let us down! The recent Quiz Night organised by the church council included a meal and this was quite successful – they used catering packs of 'Cooks' meals which just needed to be heated up/kept warm and avoided the need for a professional

cook/caterer. This is worth thinking about. **ACTION: JB to liaise with Simon Gidman to define the format of the event and to clarify roles/responsibilities and commercial arrangements between Simon and the management committee.**

- b. Craft Fair booked by Mary Barnes on 28th March 2026. Revenue will arise from charges per table (hired by exhibitors) and sale of tea, coffee and refreshments. **ACTION: MP to liaise with Mary Barnes regarding requirements.**
- c. Village Panto December 2026. This initiative is being led by CF. It may be dependent on obtaining a new stage and stage curtains (see item 10 b). **ACTION: CF to progress plans and involve committee members as appropriate.**
- d. Burns Night provisionally booked on 23rd January 2027. **ACTION: MP to liaise with Ian Drainer regarding arrangements and roles/responsibilities and to keep the management committee informed.**

12. Capital Expenditure/Maintenance

- a. Heating – review effectiveness and control of Dimplex system and consider options for enhancement if required. It was noted that the system now appears to be working correctly. MP proposed that we consider a supplementary infrared heating system and shared details of the pros and cons of such a system. In principle, infrared heating panels heat objects and people rather than air, so are inherently much more efficient. It was felt that the use of infrared heaters could enable us to reduce the target temperature of the Dimplex heaters in the colder months and enable them to be switched off completely in the warmer months. Based on indicative panel prices, a system of 8 ceiling mounted panels would cost around £3,000 plus installation costs. If approved, this expenditure could be accommodated within our existing budget (£10,000) for capital expenditure and maintenance. **ACTION: Committee members to review and provide feedback.**
- b. Mains water leak – ‘find & fix’ work continuing 17th & 18th February 2026 (when Pre-school are next on a break). When leak is finally fixed, we will need to claim on the property insurance for ‘making good’ the damage to the soft-play surface in the play area.
- c. Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) items to be actioned (high priority)
- d. Replacement tables (low priority)
- e. New stage and stage curtains (medium priority)
- f. Thermal linings for curtains (medium priority)
- g. Replacement patio doors (medium priority)
- h. Painting and decorating (medium priority)

13. Bar duties. **ACTION: All committee members to provide details of availability.**

- a. 17/1/26 (JB/JacB)
- b. 7/2/26
- c. 7/3/26
- d. 21/3/26

- e. 11/4/26
- f. 2/5/26
- g. 23/5/26
- h. 6/6/26
- i. 11/7/26 (Jazz Night)
- j. 5/9/26
- k. 24/10/26
- l. 21/11/26
- m. 19/12/26

14. AOB

- a. MP advised that Eddie Gripper wants to host a Jazz Night on 11th July 2026. This will be the second such event. Revenue will come from bar sales and a share of ticket sales. This event has been added to the schedule for bar duties. **ACTION: MP to liaise with Eddie Gripper and keep committee informed.**
- b. MP proposed that a 3PS dinner dance be scheduled in the summer. **ACTION: MP to provide further information in due course.**
- c. MP suggested a 3PS concert/dinner dance on New Year's Eve. **ACTION: Committee members to provide feedback to MP regarding viability (given resourcing implications)**

15. Date of next meeting

10/3/26 at Mulberry House (7pm)



Chair
The Tiddy Hall

23 January 2026