

EAST PORTLEMOUTH VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No. 300822

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 13th April 2026

PRESENT: Clare and Johnie Parry, Jane and John Miller, Judith Hilditch, Carole Reynolds-Jones, Andrew Coton, Ann Jones, Julie Leaver, Michael Knowles, Susie Wren, Ann Addison, Fran Butler, Robin Piggott, Helen Piggott, Beth Cave, Harold Camphuis

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Jane welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from Lindsey Lindley, Bernice Johnston, Adrian Parker.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd April 2025 were accepted as read and signed by the Secretary in the absence of the Chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Read by Jane on behalf of Lindsey.

Good evening everyone, and thank you very much for coming along tonight.

As ever, the most important thing to say is a huge thank you to all of the team and trustees for their hard work and support throughout the past year. Special thanks go to Clare and Jane for all of their meticulous hard work as Treasurer and Secretary. Matt and Julie are now our established bar team and we very much appreciate the care and thought they put into stocktaking and replenishing bar stocks.

All of us, including Trustees, work very hard to ensure the smooth running of the Village Hall. I keep referring to the 'team'. Well, at last year's AGM it was suggested that 'committee' was maybe a bit off-putting and in any case did not describe what we actually do. So, at the following meeting we agreed to 're-brand' and the VH Team was born!

A massive thank you too to the many kind people who roll up their sleeves and help with public events. Whilst it might seem that these events run like clockwork there is actually a huge

amount of sheer hard work going on for each one – planning, advertising, setting up the hall, buying in and preparing food and drinks, organising raffle prizes and then the events themselves – plus all the clearing up afterwards!

2025 saw:-

- 17 January Games night (establishing a fortnightly Bowls night)
- 21 February Social night
- 27 February Bowls night
- 13 March Bowls night
- 22 March Quiz Night in support of the Devon Air Ambulance
- 10 April Bowls night
- 16 April Barn Dance with Rumpus
- 4 May Boat Jumble (special thanks to Matt Richardson)
- 13 June Social night
- 19 July Fun Dog Show
- 23 August Bank Holiday BBQ
- 19 September Social night
- 31 October Halloween party
- 26 November Talk hosted by James Jones with National Trust and Life on the Edge
- 13 December Christmas party
- 19 December Wreath making

If anyone has any ideas for events that they would like to see in the Village Hall, please don't hesitate to contact Jane, me or any member of the team.

We are very grateful once again to The Waterhouse Trust, for their generous donation to the Village Hall, which allows us to keep the Hallowe'en and Christmas parties as free entry community events.

It is a constant balancing act to run events at a price that is affordable whilst also ensuring that the Village Hall remains a financially viable concern. Support from The Waterhouse Trust, alongside some generous private donations (including a brand new table football set) are crucial in this respect. We are very grateful to the Glovers who have agreed to allow us to have car parking donations from the gravel car park. Clare has supplied excellent signs asking for donations towards the upkeep of the Village Hall and we are finding that, yes, having a QR code for car park payments is a good idea. Dog poo is still a problem there however, but hopefully Berni's lovely painted sign will encourage people to do the right thing.

As a private venue we had plenty of bookings, such as the regular Art Club, Parish Council and PCC meetings, plus weddings and private parties and private workshops and training. You'll see from the accounts we raised over £2,600 from hall hire in 2025.

Publicising the hall continues in the ways that we have employed before – via the East Portlemouth website, Kim's list, our Facebook and WhatsApp pages and the wonderful signboard outside – thanks to the Parrys and Berni who is ever ready to paint new signs and is no doubt running out of space to store them.

Upkeep and maintenance of the Village Hall have not been extensive since the last AGM but we always have a great response to calls for volunteers:- fixing guttering, checking the roof, checking electrical switches and wiring, repairs to the porch lights, making and erecting signs, trimming hedges, etc. Two particular 'thank yous' are in order - to Johnie and Clare for their time sorting out the car park fencing and to Andy Coton for varnishing the Art room floor. We have a regular cleaning rota too and are always impressed with how clean and tidy the hall looks.

Meanwhile, Jane and Clare have been busy with organising less obvious tasks, such as insurance, fire safety, taking bookings and keeping accounts.

A few ideas that have not yet borne fruit :- sadly the Bowls nights did not re-start in the Autumn of 2025. We need just a few more people to make a Bowls Club a success. We tried to organize a First Aid training course but the usual providers, St. John's Ambulance and the Red Cross, did not have the resources to run a course here in East Portlemouth it seems.

Overall, our aim is to continue to provide as wide a range of entertainments as possible, at the most affordable price that makes them financially viable, and to keep the hall in good condition for the future.

The team is also very keen that the hall is seen to be an asset for the whole community and we are looking to find ways to encourage further use by groups within East Portlemouth.

Many thanks for listening so patiently.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Receipts and Payments account for the year ended 31st December 2025 is attached. Lindsey had helped Clare to prepare the accounts which were checked by Robin Piggott. Clare thanked them both for their invaluable assistance. The approved accounts were circulated and were available for inspection at the meeting and they were signed by Trustees Susie Wren and Mike Knowles.

The accounts showed a net income of £3,964 for the year from events plus a further £5,057 from hire of the hall and carpark takings.

The one major expense during the year was the cost of £2,390 for the 5 year Electrical safety certification and repairs. This resulted in a surplus for the year of £3,501. Total funds at 31st December 2025 were £16,403.

Beth Cave asked if the reserves were being kept for a particular purpose. Clare explained that we need to keep a certain amount in reserve for maintenance and repair of the building. We also have a sum of £200 set aside for the installation of WiFi when fibre becomes available.

Judith Hilditch is keen to explore the option of installing solar panels. Jane confirmed that it is an idea but would require someone to project manage.

5. APPOINTMENT AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS, TEAM MEMBERS, & TRUSTEES

Clare Parry asked if there were any volunteers to take over as chairman. There were none and confirmed that Lindsey had agreed to continue. Clare Parry agreed to remain as treasurer and Jane Miller to act as secretary.

Judith Hilditch, Carole Reynolds-Jones, Andrew Coton, Ann Jones and Julie Leaver agreed to continue and were duly elected as committee team members. Bernice Johnston had agreed to remain on the team and was elected in absentia.

Susie Wren, Michael Knowles and Adrian Parker will continue to act as Trustees.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Helen Piggot commented on how tidy the new lampshades look. She congratulated the team on how well run all the events are. She wondered if the clock could be fixed to tell the correct time. It was explained that it needs to be wound regularly.

Carole Reynolds-Jones is looking into groups for music nights and Judith Hilditch has some more ideas for history talks in the autumn.

7. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next committee meeting will be on Monday 11th May 2026 at 6pm.

8. DATE OF NEXT AGM

First week in April 2027 to be confirmed.