

MINAL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 12 May 2025 At 6.30pm in the Village Hall

- 1. Present:**
Anna Whitehead - Chairman
Brian Devonshire – Vice Chairman
Rob Bailey – Vice Chairman
Adam Kebble
Lesley Rowe
Guy Gagen
Apologies Accepted from:
Lucy Kirkpatrick
In Attendance
Sue Hine, Clerk/RFO Clive
Schofield, Valerie Hammerton
- 2. Questions from the Public: None**
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** Lesley Rowe works for Zurich insurance and although not involved in Sales at the organisation will abstain from voting on this issue.
- 4. Minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 13 May 2024**
The minutes were approved and signed accordingly.
- 5. Matters Arising: None**
- 6. Chairman's Report for 2023 Anna Whitehead**
Anna Whitehead noted that 2025 was our election year for the PC and thanked all Councillors for standing again. There had been no other nominations so this was an uncontested election.

She then summarised the work of the year including; major renovations and repairs in the playground, moving to a .gov domain, Adam Kebble's work installing new batteries to the Speed Indicators, changing suppliers for the refuse collection and supporting the village hall.
- 7. Village Hall Report Rob Bailey**
This annual report covers from May 2024 to May 2025. Considerable improvements and essential maintenance have continued to both the area around the hall and to the building itself. Regrettably, our income stream continues to remain stubbornly low while service and energy costs continue to increase. Moreover, despite improving our advertising there remains a reluctance for clubs, organisations and individuals to return to pre-COVID activity levels; this is not exclusive to Minal I hasten to add. However, as I reported previously, we do remain solvent. Sarah Foard continues in the role of 'Publicity' aiming to reach a wider audience of possible participants.

On a more positive note, the Hall is in good structural condition mainly thanks to Jon Napper's continuing hard work ensuring all the fixtures, fittings, heating, and drainage remain in good order. To that end, Jon now produces a regularly update on "works required" and "works completed" which is proving to be a useful management tool. Of particular note is Jon's diligence (with assistance from his wife Sue) overseeing the

selection, procurement and oversight of the new kitchen. It is a superb addition to the hall made possible by a generous grant of £5000 from Marlborough Area Board (MAB); £2500 from Minal Parish Council and £2500 from Village Hall Funds. I am confident that this modernisation will attract new patrons. Thank you very much Jon for your hard work and enthusiasm getting the project to conclusion. Other improvements during the year included push button taps within the toilets, motion sensor lights in various rooms and a deep clean of the blown air radiators. These were all in an attempt to reduce our overheads.

Siobhan Kebble saw an opportunity to generate a possible £1000 for the Hall's funds by introducing a 100 Club for villagers to join. While very much in its infancy the prospects are encouraging.

Finally, after 25 years of excellent service our erstwhile cleaner Pauline Barnett retired at the end of January. We thank her very much for her unstinting service in keeping the Hall neat and clean. Luckily we have been able to find Elspeth Slater from the village to replace Pauline. Once again, I would like to record that without the support of our small committee of dedicated volunteers, Minal Village would not have such a wonderful facility for all to enjoy. My sincere thanks to Lynn, Lisa, Susanna, Milly, Sarah, Pauline, Siobhan and Jon for their continued hard work and support.

8. Sports and Social Club Report

2024 was another successful year. We provided a vital sports facility for local youth football and cricket to be played. Massive organization efforts went into the very popular social events – Village Fete, Fun Run, Outdoor Theatre, Bonfire and Fireworks Night and Bingo. All events were financially successful ensuring viability for the future.

Power costs had become prohibitive in recent years. SSE invoices totaled over £900 in 2024! Dealing with SSE through the year was a nightmare. In December 2024 we finally switched to Octopus with a £100 starter bonus for being referred by the VH. We have a 12 month fixed tariff with massive savings especially on the daily standing charge. Average monthly invoices so far in 2025 are £16 per month! That means an annual charge of say £200 – a saving of £700!!

Overall the club had a successful financial year with an excess of approx. £2,900 of which £1,500 was utilized for the purchase of "Fergie" the tractor from Peter Barnett. As at 31st December 2024 we held £17,950 in funds.

In December 2024 we moved £10k into a savings account at 2.3% on 32 day call within our Lloyds Bank account. The interest rate has been reduced to 2.1% in early 2025.

Our thanks go to Martin Gibson who has again acted as independent examiner of the accounts, signing the 2023 accounts and who will shortly be receiving the 2024 accounts to review and authorize.

We remain out of lease (since 2014). After a flurry of communication in early 2024, getting to the stage of agreeing heads of terms, we heard nothing further from the Trustees Managing Agent to date. We are considering options going forward.

In April 2025 Marlborough Cricket advised that they were unable to field a 3rd cricket team this season so will not need to rent the field as they had done for many years. This will have a financial impact. Hopefully they will be back in 2026. We still have the Minal Leg Rovers and a team from Swindon playing cricket at Minal in the summer.

In April/May 2025 we bit the bullet and contracted out to have the two flat roofs of the clubhouse refurbished with new boarding covered by EPDM rubber, replacing the old felt mineral material. The cost was £2,940 but we are very pleased with the quality of the work. This should lengthen the lifetime of the clubhouse for the foreseeable future – floods permitting.

At the AGM held on 23rd April, all Trustees, Office Bearers and Committee members agreed to continue.

These are:

Trustees:

John Youngs, Steffan Sumner

Office bearers:

Clive Scholefield – Chairman

Dom Coomber- President

Jackie Cook – Treasurer (and fixtures secretary)

Dave Evans – Secretary

Committee members: Richard Cook, Anne Youngs, Nick Beere, Jamie Pittams, Ashley Miles, Milly Carmichael.

Clive Schofield thanked Councillors for the provision and maintenance of the playground which he is finding excellent for his grandson.

9. Report from the Minal Parish Parochial Church Council

The PCC provided a report and were holding their AGM on the same night. Valerie Hammerton was attending the PCC AGM and would ask about liaison between PCC and PC. Valerie reported that the gardening club in the village is continuing with Valerie, Sue Hine and Milly Carmichael as organisers. Several summer garden visits were planned and ad hoc visits to gardens in the area were being organised.

Clive Schofield and Valerie Hammerton left the meeting.

10. Election of Chairman and Deputy Chair

Rob Bailey proposed Anna Whitehead to serve a second year as term and this was seconded by Brian Devonshire. Councillors thanked her for her service and AW accepted the position. Rob Bailey and Brian Devonshire agreed to both serve as Deputy Vice Chairs to cover for each other and were proposed by Anna Whitehead (RB) and Guy Gagen (BD) and seconded by Guy Gagen (RB) and Lesley Rowe (BD). Councillors thanked Anna Whitehead for her service and AW thanked all councillors for standing again.

11. Confirmation of Insurance arrangements.

The renewal from Zurich was -£718.65 compared to £747.48 last year. As considerable work had been undertaken last year sourcing an insurer and many insurers will not cover Cableways the Clerk recommended staying with this insurer. The Clerk has queried the quote with Zurich as the quotation document does not mention the 3 year agreement and she is unable to access the portal due to the email change. Councillors approved Zurich as insurer for 2025-26 and LR abstained from this vote.

12. Finance.

Councillors approved ongoing subscriptions to ARK, CPRE, WALC/NALC and there is budget for further donations during the year. The Clerk confirmed that the internal audit had reported no issues and that the PC was in a healthy position moving forward.

13. Review of Policies and Procedures

The Clerk had brought the current policies to the meeting and these will be reviewed on an ongoing basis. All policies are also on the website.

14. Election of Officers – Councillor Roles

Anna Whitehead Chair - Footpaths (together with John Whitehead) overarching role for planning, communication and liaison with Parish Steward/WCC and website.

Brian Devonshire Vice Chairman – Area Board, Finance,

Rob Bailey —Minal News, Rob is also Village Hall Chair.

Guy Gagen – Emergency Plan

Adam Kebble - Playground

Lucy Kirkpatrick – LHFIFG Highways representative

Lesley Rowe – Church Liaison and adhoc issues

Chris Webb continues to act as Burials Liaison.

15. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm. Next meeting Monday 11 May 2026