



Minutes

Date: - 6th October 2026

Time: - 7pm

Attendees:- Martin Church, Ellie Pearce, Rob Pearce, Jo Church, , Phil Pollard, Simon Berry, Dave Price

Apologies: - Joy Collins, Michelle Davies

Trustees: - Martin Church, Dave Price, Rob Pearce

Public: - **(signed in)** Tony Copson. John Spilstead, Mick and Chris McDonagh, Jane and Nick Hinge, Mark Parker, Clare Leach, Linda and Rick Jackson, Diana Goodacre, Sue Silcock, Sam Wheller

1. **The Chair (Martin) Welcomed the public and introduced the current committee**

2. **Approval of previous AGM minutes**

a. Agreed – no amendments and signed.

3. **Business arising from previous AGM Minutes**

a. Concerns raised regarding ongoing issues with heating in the hall – A discussion took place surrounding the situation and possible solutions – further investigation to take place.

Response from Martin -

Nov '25 applied to National Lottery Community Fund for a grant of £20,000 to upgrade heating system

8th Jan '26 – Grant of £19,893 awarded by National Lottery

17th March 2026 – 361 Energy visited to assess the hall for energy efficiency. The assessment and discussion included cavity wall insulation, roof insulation, solar panels, double glazing and heating of hot water. A recommendation was made that the immersion heaters are replaced with a more efficient way of heating the water, and that the roof insulation above the kitchen & foyer areas is increased. A discussion surrounding the operation of the Air Source Heat Pump took place, the assessor was not able to provide specific details surrounding its performance or



operation, so suggested a specialist heating company was employed.

I contacted Panasonic Technical team for advice but they wouldn't provide me with any information; they would only discuss with a heating engineer

24th March – Earth Inspired visited the hall to check the settings and operation of the Air Source Heat Pump. They found no issues so called Panasonic to describe the issues we had encountered. Panasonic stated that the system is designed to work at temperatures well below freezing so questioned the minus 5 figure. Their advice was that the heat pump is big enough for the space being heated but that a 'drop back' temp of the main hall was set to around 17c to prevent the heat pump having to rapidly increase the temperature when the heating comes on in the morning

Additional ASHP installed to heat all three cloakrooms it was cheaper and meant less upheaval to install a new one than modify the pipework of the existing unit.

In September the ASHP & cassettes were serviced by an Independent Heating Engineer who confirmed everything was working as it should be (heating & cooling) also that the pump is big enough for the space it is heating.

- b. Suggestion that additional solar panels could be installed to help with ongoing electricity costs / increase of income.
 - i. Martin – unable to secure funding over the last year but further investigation to be continued to look at solar panels and possibly solar batteries.
- c. Ongoing maintenance and improvement to Doorstep Green, a suggestion that the field is not being managed to its potential. Various groups have posted advice to look after areas like this. It was stated that the field has improved in use over 14 years but acknowledged that some areas need work still. A point was raised that the villagers should help decide what they would want to see happen to the field. There was talk of increasing diversity in



fenced off areas in corners etc. but will have cost implications. It was agreed that some plans for further consideration to include possible questionnaires to the village would be created.

- i. Martin thanked Simon Berry for securing some tree whips that were donated FOC in a joint venture between Sainsburys and the Forestry Commission; these were planted in the two bottom corners of the field as part of a rewilding project in areas of the field. The hedges in the field are not being flayed this year to allow more natural growth after the dry summer. The trees in the orchard area were pruned and the cuttings moved to the edges of Doorstep Green to decay naturally. The management of Doorstep Green will be an ongoing project.

4. Chair's update (Martin Church)

Chair's update for 2026 AGM

1. Thanks to: -

- a. The committee and volunteers for keeping hall running
- b. Regular users/groups for their ongoing support
- c. Special thanks to Chris McDonagh for posters, Steve for homemade burgers & Christmas cake, everyone who bakes & donates cakes, Kevin for help with the plants & baskets, Lee for help with the bar, Sue for the library, John S. for donations of plants for the garden, donation from 200 club, and fundraising for the proposed purchase of the upper section of the car park, and finally to everyone who helped and loaned equipment to decorate the hall
- d. The community for supporting the events

2. Funding/grants

- a. Village Hall Podcast – following and enter their monthly draws
- b. Paint donated by Wickes for redecoration of inside of hall (thanks to Dennis)
- c. Balsdon Trust – applied for £1,500 towards refurb of toilets – awarded £1,000 Oct '25
- d. Funding Application for £8,000 sent to Common Ground Awards for upgrade of heating system (Unsuccessful)
- e. Awarded £19,893 towards cost of heating upgrade by National Lottery Community Fund – reassignment of some funds permitted for upgrade to hot water heating system



- f. Funding Application for £250 sent to Giving Machine Community Grants for upgrade of toilets - unsuccessful
- g. Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin (Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs & County Councillor for Torrington Rural) gave support for £1,000 from locality budget towards upgrade of toilets

3. Changes Introduced

- a. Ceased Monthly markets
- b. Introduced Monthly Community Cafes
- c. Introduced Seasonal Markets
- d. Tesco Clubcard
- e. Broadband deal fixed for 24 months (saved approx. £40 per month)
- f. As a consequence of ceasing the publication of The Bugle we cancelled printer subscription (saved approx. £48 per month)
- g. Elect fixed for 36 months until July '28
- h. Two additional Card Machines
- i. Registering three defibrillators on "the Circuit"
- j. Four committee members with Level 2 Food & Hygiene certification
- k. TDC Environmental health team visited and audited us – issued level 5 food hygiene certification.
- l. Dedicated PAYG Smartphone for all VH enquiries
- m. Registered with Easyfunding – as at 6th Oct we had 11 supporters who had raised £50.42
- n. Joined Devon Communities Together – initiative run by Devon County Council for Village Halls to share ideas & best practice.

4. Exterior improvements/maintenance work completed

- a. Trees planted in lower two corners of Doorstep Green (initial steps to re-wild some of the area)
- b. Trees in orchard pruned at no cost and cuttings moved to sides
- c. Area around pergola maintained, new plants & hanging baskets planted
- d. Eight 'Arrow-slit' windows in cloakrooms & kitchen replaced with PVCu units
- e. Recycling storage unit installed

5. Interior improvements/maintenance work completed

- a. Emergency Lighting units replaced
- b. Redundant cabling removed and switch cupboard in main hall repurposed
- c. Main hall, kitchen area and foyer all decorated
- d. Professional Sound-system installed (thanks to Paul & Sara Atkins who donated it). Smart speaker & CD player connected as well as two microphones so can be used as PA and/or bingo calling and quiz nights.



- e. Portable snooker/pool table purchased
- f. Kitchen cupboards relocated to allow access to consumer units, and installation of third fridge
- g. Hot water heating system upgraded
- h. Additional heat pump installed with heating added in all three toilets
- i. Instant boiling water unit installed – eliminated safety concerns with scolding from urn

6. Regular weekly activities

- a. Short Mat Bowls (twice weekly plus league & cup matches)
- b. Guides
- c. Pickleball
- d. Keep Fit
- e. Skittles
- f. Parent's Hub
- g. Church Group
- h. Bubble Church (monthly)
- i. Quilting & Sewing (monthly)
- j. Church Youth Group (monthly)

7. Regular Events

- a. 29 Village Social Evenings (inc. bingo & quiz nights)
- b. Total of 12 Community Cafes and seasonal markets held.

8. One-off Events

- a. Christmas Market & Social evening (2025) both well supported & profitable
- b. Big Breakfast (April & another arranged November)
- c. Guides 'sleep-over' (May)
- d. Bike Meet (June)
- e. Village Fair & Dog Show (July)
- f. Christmas Party (Ceilidh band booked) – £2.50 per person

9. Opportunities

- a. Our website had 6,434 views during 2025 plus 3,505 to date in 2026
- b. Beaford Village Hall is a member of Devon Communities Together programme – they offer guidance and support for all things relating to the successful running of a village hall, meet quarterly to discuss issues & successes
- c. Warm Hub resumed – being opened every Tuesday between 10am & Noon from beginning of October until end of March

10. Plans for the future



- a. Upper section of Car park
- b. Refurb of toilets
- c. Note distributed to every household inviting ideas for future events & activities – only one response received - We'd welcome ideas from the community detailing the events they'd like to see, what we do well, and what we could do better.
- d. Seek grant/funding for additional solar panels with battery storage.

Reminder of how fortunate we are to have the hall, its location, and to thank everyone who helps and supports us.

5. Treasurer's report (Ellie Pearce)

- a. Thanks to Martin for setting up the spreadsheet – makes account keeping a lot easier.
- b. Ellie stated she is standing down – Martin and Ellie will be sorting out signatories etc.
- c. 'Extra' monies in the spreadsheet are 'left over' – from grants and car park donations and are accounted separately for ease of future use.
- d. Please see attached sheet for information on breakdown of the yearly accounts.

6. Comments/questions from the public

- a. **Sam Wheller**– asking whether the public have a vote on the selection of the committee. Discussion took place amongst the attendees – The outcome was that members of the committee will all resign in the meeting and, if they wish, put their names forward for election.
- b. **Jane Hinge** proposed that the public present give a vote of support and recognition for the committee before the stand down. The outcome was that the members of the public present were happy that the current committee were doing a good job and to continue in post where possible.
- c. **John Spilstead** asked about the running cost of the heating systems now they were all fitted and serviceable.



- i. As the systems had not been used since fitment there were no figures to give but it will be monitored.
- d. **Nick Hinge** – asked about the heating controls in the hall and how to use them.
 - i. A guide will be placed on the wall near the controls to explain how to override the settings if needed.
- e. No further comments or questions were raised.

7. Invitation to public to join the committee

- a. The following members of the committee have given notice to resign and not stand for re-election – Ellie Pearce and Joy Collins. Martin expressed thanks on behalf of the committee, and indeed the wider Beaford community, for all the work that they have given over many years. As stated earlier the rest of the committee resigned but expressed a desire to be elected again if supported.
- b. Members of the public were asked if they would like to be considered for election to the committee. No members of the public wished to stand for any of the positions in the committee.

8. Election of Committee and roles for 2026 – 2027

- a. Chair – Martin Church
 - i. Proposed – Ellie Pearce, Seconded – Nick Hinge.
- b. Treasurer (Temp) – Martin Church
 - i. Proposed – Nick Hinge, Seconded – Mick McDonagh.
- c. Secretary/Vice Chair – Dave Price
 - i. Proposed – Martin Church, Seconded – Clare Leach.
- d. Bookings – Jo Church
 - i. Proposed - Martin Church, Seconded – John Spilstead.
- e. H&S – Jo Church and Phil Pollard
 - i. Proposed – Clare Leach, Seconded – Tony Copson.
- f. Safeguarding – Michelle Davies
 - i. Proposed – Phil Pollard, Seconded – Linda Jackson.

9. Date of next meeting: - 10th Nov at 7pm (1st of new committee).

10. Close

11.Refreshments



Beaford Village Hall

Charity No 300757

BEAFORD VILLAGE HALL		
2025-26 ACCOUNTS - INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		
Opening		£13727.48
Income	Hire of Hall - Cash	£828.00
	Hire of Hall - BACS/Chq	£6,160.50
	Bugle Ads	£370.00
	Coffee Mornings - Cash	£1,303.16
	Coffee Mornings - Card	£461.00
	Social Events (inc Bingo) - Cash	£4,928.25
	Social Events (inc Bingo) - Card	£5,172.14
	Bank Interest	£293.20
	Grants / Donations	£23,193.95
	Solar Panel	£708.17
	Other - Cash	£725.92
	Other - BACS/Chq/Card	£3,943.24
	Total Income	£48,087.53
Expenditure	Utilities	£4,599.48
	Maintenance	£12,609.48
	Insurance	£86.63
	Cleaning - Cash	£1,146.27
	Cleaning - Card/BACS	£1,853.67
	Social Events - Cash	£1,235.30
	Social Events - Card	£4,206.80
	Coffee Mornings - Cash	£77.34
	Coffee Mornings - Card	£143.95
	Bank & Card Reader Charges	£516.34
	Printer	£578.38
	Other - Cash	£4,202.92
	Other - Card/BACS	£1,506.99
	Total Expenditure	£32,763.55
Annual Profit / Loss		£15,323.98

Closing Balance

£29051.46