

MILSTON & BRIGMERSTON SOCIAL FUND MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Apologies: Henry and Hazel Rawlins, Alison Rawlins, Tricia Constant, Julie Weston, Sarah Steggles, Paige Brazier, Mark and Zoe Lloyd-Price, Jancis and Rob Henman.

Attendees: Maureen Sturgess, Becky Rawlins, Sam and Andrew Smith, Fiona Peters, James and Arrianne McCalla, Cecilia Darcy, Trevor Tucker, Kat Gallagher, Sally Pearson and Tracey Glibbery.

The previous meeting notes of 24th April 2024 were approved and signed.

Election of Officers:

- Tracey Glibbery was re-elected as Chair.
- Katarinie Gallagher was re-elected as Clerk/Secretary.
- Sally Pearson was re-elected as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report for the village Social Fund: These were shared and approved at the meeting. Sally talked through the income/costs for the past year plus the predicted significant costs for the rest of the financial year.

Sally emphasised that we must keep fundraising to keep our funds in a healthy state. Coffee mornings have proven to be one of the easiest (and enjoyable) ways of raising money. They can typically raise £150-300 each event. We are thankful for having some new and recurring hall bookings recently – and from villagers. It's great to see and very welcome for the funds.

Sally confirmed that the water meter for the hall is now installed and whilst it will save us money, the largest cost to us is the monthly charges. Water usage is very low and she has tried to argue for a reduction on our water sewage costs but to no avail so far.

We thanked Paige Brazier for agreeing to audit the accounts for the village.

Village hall costs, repairs and upkeep:

Costs: Sally outlined the total cost of running the hall each year: about £800 per year. It's about £1,000 if we include the annual village website costs – which we will use more this year.

Hire fees: A key activity now is reviewing and increasing the cost to hire the hall. Current users have been made aware of an impending increase. Sally has started to research the costs to hire other local halls, and we will propose new rates. The meeting attendees agreed that the current hourly rate is far too low. We have already identified that the first hourly rate must be higher (to allow for cleaning/admin); that there will be additional hourly rates thereafter; and appealing rates for half day or full day hire. We will also provide Hiring Conditions to each hiring person and will continue to charge the electricity cost on top. Sally is now managing invoicing for the hall and can review accurate electricity costs online.

A new booking system is being investigated. Maureen, Kat, Sally and Tracey are all now contacts on the village website and (since the meeting) we now share a team calendar to ensure we're all in sync. A discussion was held about creating an online booking system for the hall. The Pros being that the hiring person can see availability, make a quick booking etc. The Cons being that we don't have a discussion to understand who the person is and how the hall is used. It's likely that for the foreseeable future we will maintain a call/email system so that we can discuss the hiring person's needs/use. And explain charges. An interim step may be creating an online availability calendar for potential users to view.

Once we agree the new hall charges, we will make a concerted effort to publish the hall hire via Facebook, website links, etc to the local community, schools etc. Tracey to create necessary ads etc.

We confirmed that we have increased the hall hire rate considerably for Council election uses.

Finally on the hall – we extended our thanks to Maureen who works tirelessly to manage and clean the hall. An unsung heroine.

Repairs: It was confirmed that work to replace the hall soffit boards is complete. Matt Western (in the village) has kindly installed these with no labour costs, just the cost of parts and we thank him for this. However, we do need further funds to help replace old failing roof tiles (in place since 1964). Whilst there are no leakage issues at present, we need to get on with raising funds/grants to get the work done (which Matt has kindly identified and will undertake). We are investigating which grants to apply for.

Improving the acoustics with specialist wall tiles has helped, more may be undertaken at some stage and will need some investment in materials. Thanks go to Pete for supplying his knowledge; the supplies at cost and installation; plus Sally and Maureen as helpers! Sally reminded everyone about donating any curtains for the hall as that will help with acoustics. Donations of a sofa/soft chairs were also requested but we need to agree about potential hall use/storage facilities. We probably need to get rid of some of the old hall chairs. Clearing out the hall shed for further storage would be a useful exercise (not discussed the meeting but will be suggested as a community activity).

Further discussion about other uses of the hall were had e.g. Pickle Ball. Cecilia promised to investigate further and report back.

Not mentioned at the meeting – a new fence post/gate post at the back of the hall has now been installed by the Rawlins family – many thanks for this.

Fundraising activities: The coffee mornings have been a good success – from a fund raising and community angle. More volunteers are needed to run these please – but we recognise that not everyone can make a work daytime event.

The June 2024 Quiz Night was a great success and we agreed another would be worthwhile. The Smiths may consider another later in the year. We are also in touch with the Steggle family as they had some interest in running one. Sam suggested creating Talk Evenings – between us we could raise enough interesting speakers. Easily organised with wine/nibbles and ticket entry. Definitely one to consider. Arrianne (post meeting) suggested Irish Bingo. Trevor has suggested wine tasting evenings.

VE Day: As the Committee members aren't available, there are no plans for a village event in early May. We discussed holding an event in early June – to coincide with D Day celebrations. The Committee to look at their diaries but also requested that others will need to help too.

Defibrillator: Training will be arranged by Kat with Jenna Plank (hospital consultant) – for in-person training at the hall. A date will be published – probably with a coffee morning attached to raise funds.

A link to the British Heart Foundation online training for CPR and defibs was given out on the agenda – and here again: <https://www.bhf.org.uk/revivr>

Tracey stated that regular checks are made on the machine and that ongoing costs will be needed e.g. new battery. But not a huge cost.

Road maintenance. Tracey finally found the person who manages the workloads of the Parish Stewards. We know that the Steward recently filled some potholes on the back lane near Brigmerston but not all of our pot holes. Thankfully, we now have the activity list that we need to complete each month. It's confirmed that we are entitled to 3.5 hours of work/per month by the Parish Steward. Unfortunately, the type of work doesn't really cover everything we want – but we now need to ensure we utilise the Steward's time as well as possible. A summary of the activities is listed below. The Committee will issue a reminder of the list and invite requests. The wish list is then sent to the Council contact. It was agreed that potholes were our priority – unfortunately, the temporary pothole fixes undertaken by the Steward are insufficient in quality to last.

Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers	Hand clearing of blocked drainage gullies, grips, culverts, pipes and pits (unable to jet system)
Clearing storm debris from the roads and footways	Pedestrian barriers preparation and painting
Cleaning and straightening of small road signs, street nameplates and bollards	Securing of existing small road signs, verge marker posts and supplied street name plates
Removal of limited graffiti from road signs, bollards and street nameplates	Hand cutting of grass and vegetation in visibility areas
Hand treatment of weeds	Hand clearance of encroaching growth and soils from footways
Repair of small potholes in roads and on footways	

Fingerpost signs in the village. The two fingerpost signs at both ends of Church Road have been reported AGAIN via the MyWilts App. Many attempts via writing/email have failed in the past. Councillor Ian Blair-Pilling confirmed this was the only route. Tracey requested that more people submit the issue on the App to gather volume. SINCE THE MEETING: Both of Tracey's cases are confirmed closed with the note that it's not a priority due to funding and she should contact her local parish council (!).

The sign at the top of Brigmerston sign incorrectly states Milston above Brigmerston, and this needs swapping. The sign at Milston has been down for ages. The Committee will look into repairing/creating their own posts – but needs to be done with view about who is liable, etc.

Village tidy: A village 'tidy up' has been agreed as a good community activity, with refreshments afterwards. Activities would include litter picking and tidying up the village e.g. the hedge area between the lane and the Croft green. To be suggested over the summer – perhaps for a weekend morning.

The cutting of the grass outside the hall was discussed. But no volunteers as yet. To raise again by Facebook.

Neighbourhood Watch: A reminder that Kat Gallagher is the village representative for Brigmerston, and Gary Rowland for Milston. Some concerns were raised about a noticeable increase in people walking through the village on both sides, and mostly unknown people. With a house theft in Milston Road and a publicised incident in the woods at the back of Durrington – we all agreed to be more vigilant and share information (especially on the village Facebook page).

Village website: A reminder that we have a village website, which was started in Covid to help with communications. The site is information only – not transactional at present without further investment/plugin. As suggested by Arrianne, we could consider using Event Brite for promoting/selling tickets for events – and the site/Facebook could advertise this. One to consider.

Tracey has updated the site with past meeting notes and recent agendas. Villagers can advertise events/local business info. <https://www.milstonandbrigmerston.co.uk/>. Sam offered to help with updates.

Local elections. The hall will be used all day on 1st May 2025 for local elections.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

KEY ACTION POINTS – we welcome volunteers undertaking any that are not allocated already!

ACTION	BY
Hall hire fees review and publication	Committee. Village can help publicise the venue.
Start grants/funding application for village hall	Committee
Pickle ball in the hall?!	Cecilia
Donations of curtains for the hall	Village
Coffee mornings	Volunteers please
Quiz nights/Talks/Other activities	All ideas welcome and volunteers
VE Day/D Day/ Village social event – date TBC	Committee, plus volunteers to help run
Defib training	Kat arranging with Jenna
Parish Steward work allocation – wish list to be shared regularly for village input	Committee, and village for input
Fingerpost signs	Committee to investigate own repairs/installation As many as possible to use MyWilts app to report issues (including pot holes)
Grass cutting outside the Hall – ongoing request	Any volunteers please
Village tidy, including tidying/clearing out of hall shed	Committee to suggest date, as many volunteers as possible
Investigation of ‘village gate post’ (discussed during Precept meeting)	Committee to investigate costs/feasibility, then village input