Trustees of Aston Village Hall
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 22nd June 2026

Welcome to the AGM of the village hall for Aston and Weymouth.

As Chair each year I have the opportunity to give a short statement.

This time there is a difference, because Rosalind and I have sold our house and are leaving Aston after 12 happy years. As a result we will be moving out of the village within the next few weeks. As a result we both wish to stand down as trustees, at this meeting.

I will come back to this later, in the meantime I would like to review the past year.

Firstly I pay tribute to the members of the community gathered here tonight who by being here demonstrate they care about our hall. This team has helped over the past twelve months to put on events, raise money and improve the facilities and I am very grateful, on behalf of the village.

The rising costs that venues such as ours face is a real problem. Insurance and Energy costs are especially inflationary. This year however we finally got to grips with something that has confounded several previous committees and I am glad to have got a solution over the line before leaving.

We have finally managed to remove two of our three single phase electricity meters. This will save around £800, annually, through elimination of two of the three standing charges. Miles also then was able to negotiate a lower rate, further saving money.

Events over the past year included three pub nights, the most recent with Helen's bingo, a Christmas and Summer party, each with the excellent live band The Luddites, a Saturday Coffee Morning with Bacon Butties and twelve First Tuesday free coffee mornings.

Hall hires have included several children's parties, parish council meetings and our MP's constituency surgery.

I'd like to thank Miles again for his sterling work in keeping on top of the finances and to Kate for growing the 100 Club membership such that the monthly prize is a very handy £85.50. The increase in 100 Club funds has enabled us to invest in the new large TV screen and stand which will be first used next month by a hall hirer for a presentation.

I'm really glad we can not only enable hirers to run videos or PowerPoint presentations,

but the Events team can now use it too for community events. It is worth saying, that as an events team, we have noticed a real drop off in villagers' bookings for planned events and a notable reduction in attendance at some of the once nailed-on winning village events. Many theories have been shared, and, I think, the reasons are very varied.

I am pleased to report that the team is thinking of changes that are needed to adapt to these changing times. Interesting ideas include investigating the desire for a regular monthly pub night, more weekend morning events and encouraging evening lectures and presentations to attract more users over the threshold.

We do have to admit that we have a relatively unpopulated catchment area off the beaten track, so we do need to attract more of our local community to frequent the premises than we are managing to do at present, so these new initiatives are to be welcomed. A questionnaire is being planned and it is hoped that this will connect with a number of the village community currently not choosing to attend or support events, along with a drop in session to encourage feedback.

Rosalind and I have enjoyed taking a lead at the Village Hall over the past years and the friendships built up. We are feeling sad to be leaving, but we are needing to move to a more sustainable location for the next stage of life.

The constitution requires trustees to be drawn from people living in Aston or Weymouth and who represent the local interests. Ros and I are not just moving away, but have served for over eight years, therefore we are tendering our resignations. Last month Michele Ibbs also asked to stand down for work commitment reasons, so there are three vacancies on the board of trustees and the role of Chair and Secretary will need filling.

We are not moving far, so we are happy to continue to return and help with village events and stay as members of the Events Committee. We are prepared to continue to host the monthly First Tuesday coffee mornings (if the trustees still wish it) and be the church link with Woore.

We are also resigning the roles of chair and secretary of the events committee. It is time for a change. We know there's a great events team that puts on events and has the spirit of the village community at heart. So we are hoping that in this room, the baton can be passed to other folk, to take up the lead for the next few years.

Guy Chatburn
22.6.26

Aston & Weymouth Village Hall

Treasurer's Report

This report and the accompanying accounts set out the financial performance for the Village Hall during the year to 31 March 2026 and the state of affairs at that date.

It is disappointing to have to report that we have once again incurred a deficit, slightly lower than last year's but still just over £2,000.

The events we held were financially successful with takings of over £4,000 and a margin of nearly £1,700 – almost double the previous year. This includes two nights on which we had a band to pay for (The Luddites) but their very reasonable rates meant we could keep the ticket prices down.

However the cancellation of the Fish and Chip Quiz because of disappointing ticket sales meant that we missed an important opportunity to get closer to a break-even.

Hall hires were down slightly, but the generosity of those making donations throughout the year (both of cash and equipment) is very gratifying.

The costs of running the hall rose substantially but there are significant opportunities to bring these down in the future. At long last we have been able to rationalise the 3-meter electric system to just one (meaning just one standing charge instead of three) and we have been able to negotiate a significantly lower tariff. The impact of this should be seen in 2026/27

We had a nasty surprise when Newcastle Council enforced payment of Council tax, despite their letters apparently being sent to the wrong address. That left us having to pay an enforcement fee. We have asked for consideration from the Council and now pay by Direct Debit to avoid any future recurrence.

The great success of the year is the surge in numbers joining the 100 Club (even though we increased the monthly stake!) and we are able now to offer attractive prizes.

The Village Hall still has assets of over £24,000, despite the deficit, but our aim must be to turn this position around. Using the hall far more frequently (perhaps through getting a permanent alcohol licence) seems like a good way forward.

Miles Scott

Treasurer

21 June 2026

Aston and Weymouth Village Hall

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
EVENTS		
Takings and Bar	4,119.32	2,491.37
Raffles	292.00	257.00
Cost of events	(2,662.25)	(1,788.64)
Donations made	(60.00)	0.00
Surplus on events	1,689.07	959.73
OTHER INCOME		
Hire of the hall	365.00	450.00
Donations received	665.70	263.85
Wayleave	49.87	44.28
	1,080.57	758.13
EXPENDITURE		
Hall Costs		
Electricity	1,513.72	1,568.03
Heating Oil	126.00	244.00
Insurance	1,226.73	1,256.53
Water	340.10	242.64
Council Tax	620.60	27.90
Cleaning	294.06	252.97
Grounds	682.87	252.00
Website	120.00	120.00
Miscellaneous	(4.25)	28.75
Repairs and Maintenance		
Electrical	548.38	0.00
Plumbing	246.48	216.00
Other	0.00	232.78
	5,714.69	4,441.60
Operating deficit	(2,945.05)	(2,723.74)
100 Club		
Subscriptions	1864.00	1330.00
Prizes	1007.00	729.00
Surplus on 100 club	857.00	601.00
Excess of expenditure over income	(2,088.05)	(2,122.74)

Aston and Weymouth Village Hall

Assets and Liabilities as at 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Brought forward 01/04/2025		
AVH Bank Account	17,510.92	20,351.41
100 Club Bank Account	6,942.22	6,773.47
Petty Cash	657.10	701.10
Stock of Oil	426.00	670.00
Bar Stock	986.00	789.00
Accrued Income and prepayments	90.00	90.00
Accrued liabilities	(360.00)	(1,000.00)
	26,252.24	28,374.98
Excess of expenditure over income	(2,088.05)	(2,122.74)
	24,164.19	26,252.24
Carried forward 31 03/2026		
AVH Bank Account	14,298.42	17,510.92
100 Club Bank Account	8,967.97	6,942.22
Petty Cash	1,352.80	657.10
Stock of Oil	300.00	426.00
Bar Stock	595.00	986.00
Accrued Income and prepayments	90.00	90.00
Accrued liabilities and income in advance	(1,440.00)	(360.00)
	24,164.19	26,252.24
Accrued Income and Prepayments		
Parish Council - hire of hall	90.00	90.00
	90.00	90.00
Accrued Liabilities and Income in Advance		
100 club advance subs	(1,440.00)	(360.00)
100 club prizes		
	(1,440.00)	(360.00)