

1. Attendance

Present: Anthony Gilsenan (Chairman); Bruce Wallace (Treasurer); Margaret Alford (Secretary); Simon Kinrade (Vice Chairman); Bill Whittaker; Shirley Piper; Mark Jones; Samantha Ball; Patricia Webb; Jim Latter; Nick Willmoth; Edwin Linnell (non-resident)

Minutes: Vivienne Nuttall

Apologies: Jimmy Girling; Di Clarke; Annette Huddleston; Jamie Chalkley; Neil Cann; Margaret Dyson

2. Minutes of Last AGM

The minutes were signed off by Anthony Gilsenan with no amendments.
Proposed Mark Jones, seconded Bruce Wallace

3. Matters arising from Minutes

Covered in Officers' reports below.

4. Chairman's Report (Anthony Gilsenan)

"No eye contact = No entry." This simple concept lies behind the continuing success of the Ashington Centre despite being in a village where very many people do not make an effort to use the excellent facilities of the Centre. Equally without volunteers, the Centre will not grow.

Everyone, especially the Trustees, needs to spread the word about what goes on here, what new Clubs could be formed and how the facilities could be used. There are people in the village who have never visited the Centre, and some that have never even heard of it. So, we need to go out, make eye contact with your fellow villagers, tell them what a good thing we have going. Talk about our clubs and events. It is not enough for us to advertise, this needs supporting by the personal touch.

3 ¼ years ago, I took on the Chairmanship on the basis that if I couldn't make a difference in 6 months, I would stand down. I am still here (although I will be standing down tonight). I think that we are in a good place and that we have a really strong team. My thanks go to all the wonderful people who keep the Centre running – Bill who will turn out at midnight for a (false) alarm, Bruce for his amazing negotiating skills, Simon for his constant support and Margaret for all her work dealing with other people and organisations and running bookings. So I stand down feeling that the last 3 years has been worthwhile and I am proud of the Trust and proud to remain a trustee. It is also deeply pleasant to handover office knowing that the Co-op has accepted our application for funds for a new sensory garden, and the balance is now over £450 – keep shopping at the Co-op!

5. Treasurer's Report (Bruce Wallace)

In 2014, our cost base was £43K, running at a loss in immediate cash terms, with ancient equipment and small contingency funds. In the last 3 years, we have been doing 3 basic things – reducing costs through better procurement, increasing income and improving assets.

Bruce then took the meeting through the Annual Accounts (attached) the highlights of which were:

Income £53k

Running Costs £38k

Current Account £68k

Investments £19k

Major asset purchase £23k (Kubota Tractor – largely funded by HDC grant)

This is a good position to be in. We need the trust to be self-sustaining to ensure it's legacy remains for future generations and this means developing sizeable reserves to cover eventualities such as a new roof, reflooring and even given a long enough adherence to our financial approach enough to rebuild in the fullness of time. This may seem unlikely but the village has had at least three village centres since the 1940s. So this year we will be increasing our focus on the investment policy.

The Treasurer Role has evolved as follows:

Bruce will be known as Financial Controller. He retains full responsibility for ACCT's finances but his main role will be contractual and Stage 2.

To assist Bruce we have appointed a Treasurer who will be responsible for book keeping and accounts. This is Nick Willmoth. Constitutionally the role of Financial Controller is not recognised, so it was made clear that Bruce remains the constitutional Treasurer. [Not explained at AGM: Nick will not be a trustee but is in fact self employed and will be paid for his services. On that basis it is not envisaged that Nick will attend meetings]. The roles will be regularised should we update the constitution in the future.

Accounts accepted unanimously.

Proposed by Margaret Alford, seconded by Bill Whittaker.

6. Secretary's Report (Margaret Alford)

Bookings very good, all evenings regularly booked apart from Fridays, but get quite a lot of ad hoc Friday bookings (Preparation for Saturday bookings etc).

Margaret has received an email of appreciation for Derek, which she read out to the meeting. She also thanked:

- Katie, the cleaner
- Adam who does a lot of heavy lifting in the hall, and
- John Raynard the Health and Safety Officer.

Finally, Margaret thanked Anthony 'for being one of the best Chairman she has served with'.

Report attached.....

7. Election of Officers and Trustees

The following were elected unanimously by a show of hands:

Chairman: Simon Kinrade

Vice Chair: Jim Latter

Secretary: Margaret Alford

Treasurer/ Financial Controller: Bruce Wallace

Trustees: Bill Whittaker; Anthony Gilsenan; Pat Webb; Mark Jones; Neil Cann; Shirley Piper

All elected unanimously by a show of hands

8. Appointed Trustees by Organisations and Observers

Trustees: Jimmy Girling (Ashington Church); Matthew Squires (Ashington Football Club)

Observers: Annette Huddleston (Independent Women of Ashington); Marc Oatis (Cougars); TBC (Gardening Club); Margaret Dyson (Ashington Craft Club); Andy Roberts (Scouts); Jamie Chalkley (Youth Club); Barbara Weir (Short Mat Bowls); Samantha Ball (Parish Council)

9. Independent examiner of accounts

Mike Plant was appointed for 2017/2018.

Proposed by Simon Kinrade, seconded Pat Webb. Accepted unanimously

10. Any Other Business

Simon mentioned that he has been asked by a resident why the Community Centre has been renamed. Simon explained that the trust is a charity as such it has several identities e.g.

Charity: Village Hall and Recreation Fields, Ashington

Trust: Ashington Community Centre Trust (this is the sole function of the charity)

Community is at the heart of the trust and at the heart of the Trust's objects and constitution. This building will always be a community centre. In the village people will doubtless refer to it as the Ashington Community Centre in the same way that they refer to Ashington Parish Church whose actual name is the Church of St Peter and St Paul.

However, the community centre is not fully occupied and it is important that we maximise bookings to support the maintenance and investment that to keep the facility thriving. This means advertising and attracting other business such as weddings. Good marketing is vital and we are using The Ashington Centre as a brand identity. If you visit the website you will see a very effective example of the branding. You will also see in the articles & events, library, gallery and volunteer pages a site steeped in community.

Meeting finished at 20.20

Annex 1: Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2017

Ashington Community Centre Trust

Income & Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2017

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Sales	52818	55415
HDC	1216	
HDC Grant	20622	1000
Asset Sale	2400	
Interest	8	8
Fund Raising	<u>77064</u>	<u>1425</u>
		57848
<u>Payments=</u>		
Heating	7993	
Insurance&Security	6158	
Rates	2387	
Water	644	
Communications	2902	
Stationary	62	
General Administration	726	
Salary &Tax	<u>4217</u>	25089
Maintenance	12534	9913
Tractor	23346	
Professional Fees	<u>681</u>	<u>1266</u>
	61650	37577
Equipment	3734	29321
Events	540	1179
School Donation		911
Charifund	<u>2500</u>	<u>10000</u>
Total Payments	<u>68424</u>	<u>52599</u>
Net Surplus	<u>8640</u>	<u>5249</u>
<u>Capital Account</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Lloyds Current A/C</u>	65723	57091
Lloyds Deposit	16080	16072
Petty Cash	28	28
Charifund Cost Value£14573	<u>12500</u>	<u>10000</u>
	<u>94331</u>	<u>83191</u>

Report =

I am satisfied that the Trust Accounts are in accordance with the books and records
And explanations given to me

M N.Plant
Bryher Mill Lane
Ashington
RH203BX.

Annex 2: Secretary's Written Report for Year 2016 / 2017

1. Bookings are good, we are booked most weekends with adult & children's parties etc. We have quite a few bookings with WSCC and the NHS for training days. We have regular bookings weekdays except some Fridays where we have Bingo once a month, and preparation time if there is an event on the Saturday like a wedding or a big party.
2. We still have the Toy Fair 6 times a year. Again this year we welcome back the Church Conference which this year is for 5 full days. Also we have a Church away-day from a Worthing Church back this year, as they enjoyed it so much last year.
3. The Wedding Fayre was good but not so many people through the door this year, but I have been told it has been the same for all wedding fayres this year. We have plans in holding another one a bit later in the year next year say March or April time. But we did make nearly £400 profit.
4. The Spinnettes have had 3 concerts here and have been excellent, they wanted to put on a summer show but I couldn't fit them in on the days they wanted. But there are plans for a Christmas show.
5. This year's Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 2nd December.
6. I would like to thank Derek who is such an asset to the centre, and I would like to read out an email I was sent from SMB.
7. I would also like to thank Katie our cleaner, who is excellent. And Adam Derek's son-in-law who does a lot of lifting jobs to help Derek and also puts up and takes down the voiles and lights when they are booked.
8. Also I would like to thank John Raynard who is our Health & Safety Officer, he does all the risk assessments P.A.T testing and playground inspections. Also all the people that do leaflet deliveries and litter pick for us.
9. Lastly I would like to thank Anthony for all he has done over the last 3 years, he has been a pleasure to work with and has been one of the best Chairman I have worked with over the years and I am so glad we are not losing him altogether.