**Lothersdale Village Hall Trust**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2026**

**Present**

Stephen Cohen (Chair), Catherine Gott, Kendal Gott, Graham Wadsworth (Treasurer), Pete Harrison, Malcolm Willetts, Stephie Jones, Jill Murray (Minutes)

**Apologies**

Richard Smith, Gill Hall

1. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting 20.08.2026.
    a. The water filter and UV lamp (approx. £10 and £30 respectively) for the water system have been bought and fitted. Invoice to follow from plumber.
    b. The water pressure issue has been identified and fixed, although other issues have now been identified. Work on the bore hole water pipe in the ginnel had resulted in the tap into the village hall being turned off and the incorrect pipe being opened. It seems the incorrect pipe had led to flooding beneath Jon Barrow's house. PH to follow up with Nic Murray to understand the other pipe and whether it can simply be capped.
    c. SC advised that he has contacted Garfield Weston Foundation who donated £3 to £4,000 for the kitchen. A grant application could be submitted immediately with the details of the lease only being during the grant approval process.
    d. SC and PH have also been in contact with the National Lottery Awards for All England. Their rules have changed and applications can now be made for running costs ( eg rent and maintenance) as well as capital projects. SC and PH to discuss applications in more detail.
    e. SC has written to the Village Trust to ask whether they would be willing to buy the Village Hall with the proceeds of the sale of the Clubhouse. All trustees were asked to contact Lothersdale Village Trust trustees personally to discuss with them. {subsequent note 31.08.2028 – trustees are: Simon Shaw, Raine Southern, Daniel Edward Laurence Hayes, Chris Cowgill, Jo Robinson, Matthew Paul Illingworth, Kevin Maltby}.

2. Stephie Jones was proposed by SC, seconded by MW and voted unanimously as a new trustee for the LVHT.

3. Ceiling repairs. The question proposed by CG (supported by KG) was whether to commit all of the Trust's available funds in order to pay for the ceiling repairs to be carried out as soon as possible so that the hall can be available for bookings.
    a. SC and GW have produced a summary of the Hall's financial situation ( attached).
    b. The highlights:
        i. The reduction in bookings. A number of regular bookings have been lost (partly due to change of demographics in the village) and others have been lost due to the closure of the Hall.

ii. Increase in costs eg sewerage. Annual running costs are average £6,000 and likely to be higher in future (oil price increases, increased rent, rates and increased heating due to enlarged roof space.
iii. Bank interest received anticipated to be £1,500 in 2026.
iv. Other capital costs expected
    1. Boiler is 25 years old. Need to replace before requirements for a heat pump. Assume £10,000.

c. Concluded the Hall would not be viable if all of the available funds are used for the ceiling, especially as there are likely to be additional costs eg lighting.
d. Grants are potentially available for capital projects and the National Lottery could potentially provide running costs for 2 to 4 years.
e. Noted that some grant applications require match funding to be available.
f. The option of “patching” the ceiling and returning to the Church was discussed. Noted that there is a right at the end of September (6 months in advance) to request a rolling lease.
g. General acceptance that the Hall’s funds will not all be used for the ceiling repairs and that additional quotes for the work are to be obtained and grant applications to be made (Stephen Cohen and Pete Harrison).

4. Lease. There is an expectation that the new lease will be approved by the Diocese within 4 to 6 weeks. Advice to be sought re break clause. PH suggested using the last solicitor as last time to have the lease reviewed.
5. An electronic booking system - was briefly discussed. SC to contact the main providers and request a demonstration.
6. Safeguarding policy – SC has requested a copy from Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE).
7. Trustees
    a. KG said that he would like to relinquish the role of booking clerk and will resign as trustee once the £15,000 for his brother’s Memorial Garden has been spent and the garden is in place.
    b. CG will continue as booking clerk until a new booking system is put in place.
    c. SC gave notice that he plans to resign once the new lease is in place and funding applications have been submitted. He suggested that Pete Harrison could take over as Chair as he has been shadowing him. Bank passwords to be given to Pete by Graham.
    d. GW indicated that he too will look to resign in the future and therefore it would be useful to have a new trustee with interest in finances to shadow him.
    e. Minimum 3 new trustees required. All to think of possible new trustees and ask them. PH to request through Facebook - Lothersdale Past and Present.
8. Insurers
    a. GW to advise the insurers that the building is unused at present.
    b. Insurance renewal is due 1st October. GW suggested keeping with Ecclesiastical and committing to 3 years for 5% discount. This was agreed.

9. Payments from rentals.  Several regulars pay at the end of the year ( up to 12 months in arrears) and so they will be contacted to pay the outstanding bills for 2026 and will be asked to pay quarterly once the Hall reopens.
10. Date of next meeting – to be advised when the new lease is available.