

**Pilton Village Trust**  
**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**29 November 2025**  
**Pilton Village Hall**

**AGM Chair:** Terry Moulder

**Apologies:** Audrey Brown, John Broxup

**Trustees Present:** Terry Moulder (Chair), Joanna Thoms (Vice Chair), Andy Richards, Alan Ayres, Tracy Mapstone & Kelly Sumner

## **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The Chair formally opened the meeting at 14:30 and welcomed all attendees. It was announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of accurate minute-taking.

## **2. Appointment of Trustees for 2024/25**

The Chair stated that the Trust Deed provides for a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 12 trustee positions. 9 nominations have been received, as follows:

- Tracy Mapstone
- Kelly Sumner
- Alan Ayres
- Andy Richards
- Joe Marcangelo-Lyons
- John Lewis
- Caroline Lewis
- John Broxup
- Joanna Thoms

The Chair asked whether there were any objections to the above individuals being appointed. John Boucher raised a point of order stating that an election was required and the nominees cannot simply be appointed as Trustees. The Chair clarified that he had asked whether there were any objections to the individual nominees; none being raised he then proposed that the 9 individuals be appointed as Trustees and asked for a show of hands. 20 people voted in favour with no votes against. The proposal was therefore carried and the above nominees are confirmed as Trustees for the 2025/26 term. The Vice Chair asked John Boucher to confirm that he could see no issues with this approach. John Boucher confirmed that he could not.

The Chair noted that neither he nor Audrey Brown were standing again for personal reasons.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from the 2024 AGM

The Chair noted that the draft of the 2024 AGM minutes (not 2025 as recorded on the agenda) had been available for review on the Trust website. Attendees were invited to comment on the draft minutes.

#### Discussion:

John Boyce raised the issue of the recorded result of a vote taken at the 2023 AGM regarding public attendance at Trust meetings. He asserted that the recorded outcome (four for, four against) was incorrect and that at least six attendees had voted in favour meaning that the motion had been carried. The Vice Chair responded that this issue was investigated after it was raised at the previous (2024) AGM. The Trustees who were present at the 2023 AGM recall this differently as do the meeting minutes taken at the time (both of which align with the recorded outcome). The Trust therefore feels this to be a more accurate representation of the result. John questioned whether the Trust considered that the 6 individuals weren't telling the truth. The Vice Chair disagreed with that assertion saying that the minutes recorded that there had been votes in favour of the resolution but we couldn't just go and change the result when this contradicted the best available evidence. John asked what the best way forward would be, should we not simply put it to another vote. The Vice Chair highlighted the Trust rules require resolutions to be submitted a week before the AGM. John questioned whether that meant it would have to wait until next year. The Vice Chair confirmed that would be the case.

There being no further comments the draft minutes were formally approved.

### 4. Chairperson's Annual Report

The Chair reported an active year highlighting a number of key achievements as follows:

- Introduction of enhanced opening hours, launch of a new website and social media channel, reinstatement of a food offering and increased community engagement
- Ongoing maintenance and improvement of the building
- Dramatic reduction in neighborhood complaints
- Receipt of a financial contribution from the Pilton Stage for the first time in recent memory

These achievements represent a genuine team effort between the Pilton Stage and the trustees combining community spirit, practical improvement and renewed financial stability.

The Chair gave a high level overview of the financial position of the Trust as follows:

- Bank Balance: £26,466
- Income recorded of £16,713 against outgoings of £19,652 resulting in a shortfall of £2,939. The shortfall is considered exceptional due to one-off repairs & maintenance costs and exceptional legal costs of £3,840 caused by the need to answer questions from the Charity Commission as a result of questions put to the Charity Commission by anonymous members of the public relating to the appointment of the Pilton Stage. The Charity Commission was given copies of all relevant contracts, legal advice and documents and is content with the current position. It is hoped that this type of expense shall not occur in the next financial year as it is a very significantly drain on the trust funds.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Joe Marcangelo-Lyons presented the financial report.

- Bank Balance: £26,466 (£15,288 in the current accounts and £11,178 in savings)
- Income recorded of £16,713 against outgoings of £19,652 resulting in a shortfall of £2,939
- Major Income contributions: Co-op rental £5,000, fundraising £3,800, £2,556 Co-op festival sales, £2,767 from the Pilton Stage and £1,780 from Bingo
- Major Expenditure items: Insurance £3,500; Legal Fees £3,840 & non-recurring repairs and maintenance costs of £9,369

Key Risks and Opportunities:

- Risks – there is significant remedial work required to the roof of the building, there is no festival in 2026 and the lease of the Co-op is due for renewal in the next financial period
- Opportunities - there are a number of income items that weren't received in time for the close of the financial year, being service fee income from the Co-op (£2,000), a proportion of the festival own branded sales from the Co-op (c.£2,500) and a contribution to insurance costs from the Co-op. Since the end of the last financial period the Trust expect to collect a further £10,000 of additional income before receipt of a further payment from the Pilton Stage (the current payment is only a part payment for the year).

### Questions from the floor:

Christine King asked who are Spraydex (listed in the Trust Expenditure section). Joe confirmed these are painters and decorators. Christine asked if in future greater explanations could be provided for items of expenditure; this was agreed.

John Boyce expressed his thanks to Audrey Brown for the money raised via bingo.

Eileen Govier questioned the statement about the contribution from the Pilton Stage being the first in recent memory saying that the Working Men's club had made a significant contribution. Kelly Sumner challenged this, saying apart from the gifting of the assets in 2012 there had never been a financial contribution. Eileen considers the gifting of the assets to be a significant contribution.

## 6. Any other business

Several questions and comments were raised on the following topics:

### 6.1 Thanks to the Trustees

Angela Wynn thanked the Trustees for their efforts, It's not an easy job and she was sorry to hear about the anonymous complaint. She had experienced that continuously whilst a trustee and people don't seem to realise the amount of money and time it takes up. It's a shame people don't come forward and actually help rather than just agitate.

Kelly Sumner stated that whilst the legal fee was a not insignificant amount of £3,840, if it wasn't for a relationship that one of the Trustees has with a law firm, the overall cost would have been something like £10,000 and it's a sad indictment that there are people in the village who appear to want to make it as difficult as possible for people who are doing the best they can.

### 6.2 Co-Op

Questions were asked about the status of negotiations with the Co-op. Kelly Sumner confirmed that the Co-op has been served notice following 6 months of negotiations alongside GFEL. The

contract ends on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026. The Co-op will be replaced by another party. The firm can't be named as yet as the contracts are yet to be finalised. They are not a national chain but it is a big company with previous experience of running village stores. The Post Office will be retained but there may be a short break in service as the new partner obtains the necessary registrations. Discussions were held with a number of interested parties but it was considered that this particular company was going to be more focussed on the opportunity than a larger convenience store chain. The process was led by GFEL with input from the Trustees.

## **6.2 Stairlift**

A question was asked whether the Stairlift was being removed (as highlighted in the minutes). Kelly Sumner confirmed that it was due to the lack of usage and the ongoing cost of servicing and maintenance. The decision was taken following discussions with potential wheelchair users who would rather access the building using the ramp. Eileen Govier questioned what arrangement would be in place for non-wheelchair users. Tracey Mapstone stated that there is a wheelchair held on site should individuals require assistance and access could be via the ramp or the village hall entrance.

## **6.3 Co-opting Trustees**

Ron England questioned whether an individual can be co-opted as a trustee as they are aware of someone who would be interested in doing so. The Vice Chair stated that a decision to co-opt someone is one for the trustees but any interested party should make themselves known to the trustees

## **6.4 Memorial Bench**

Eileen Govier raised a question regarding the installation of the Mary Renner memorial bench. The Chair stated that it had been decided to wait on installing the bench until the Spring as it needs bolting securely in place and this avoids it being installed over winter. The Chair also stated that the Trustees do not consider it their responsibility to undertake any further remedial works in the unfortunate event the bench is damaged again.

## **7. Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked all attendees for their time, input, and constructive dialogue. The meeting was officially closed at 14.56