SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes – Monday 24th November 2025

1. Present at meeting & apologies for absence:
In attendance: Jenny Pine, Liz Brunwin, Carol Squire, Sue Sharrock, Gale Singfield
Apologies - Pip Pryor, Tina Campan also did not attend. Sarah Milhench has resigned

2. Minutes of the last meeting - Agreed
Action: Carol to forward to the PC Clerk to add to the website

3. Feedback from PC Meeting
● PC is still investigating installation of the parcel lockers, although Liz muted that it is doubtful this will go ahead due to lack of uptake by the village in their use.
● Carol updated that the company who were going to install the EV charge points has gone bust. The Parish Council has heard that the County Council are approaching an alternative company to take on the work.
● 2 quotes have been obtained for repainting the hall and windows and come in c£200. It is intended to postpone the works until next year. In May 2025 the parish council has set aside an annual budget for £3,000 for maintenance work in 2025/6 - most of it has been spent.
● The car park gravel has been gradually pushed towards the hall by cars, and this has created bare areas. It was suggested this was tackled in the new year or the spring clean day
Action: Rake gravel in early New Year
● The external render has been inspected and in places has blown away from the wall. It had been hoped that minor repairs could be done. Any large-scale works will only be done if a grant can be secured from the local council
Action: Carol to go back to PC re: rendering forward plan

4. Financial update
● Jenny tabled the current bank balance and expenditure report
● Quiz night was a success and showed surplus of £315
● The November film night was well attended with £133 taken
● There are no major expenses expected between now and the end of year.
● Electricity bills have reduced dramatically since installation of the solar panels and there were no bills for October and November as a result.
● In contrary, the Bank has started to charge higher monthly rates increasing from £4 to £6
● Fire alarms need to be tested every 6 months - an increase from the original annual requirement. This means an extra £120 needs to be provided for this.
Action: Carol to check if 6 monthly testing is an insurance requirement and if so to book the Fire Alarm Safety maintenance company ACE to carry this out.

5. **Hall bookings update**
● Regular bookings continue to generate income
● **Pilates** Mondays attendance will continue to be monitored, but it is satisfactory at the moment. Wednesday evenings have dropped off and are at risk of being cancelled. Several sessions this year have been below the minimum requirement and so the hall hire fee has had to be waivered.
- **Zumba** seems to be continuing ok after some additional publicity
● **The Quiz night** was well attended and was a good fun evening. meal was delicious!

All agreed the fish and chip van would be used again at a future event if needed

- The **Christmas Pottery** event was attended by 20 people and was very enjoyable. It was agreed that further promotion was required for this event next time to ensure higher attendance by Shimpling villagers.

Action: Committee to give Carol their ideas for increasing Shimpling residents attendance.

6. Future VH Events:

● Live streaming for **Beauty and the Beast Pantomime** has been paid for to take place Saturday 27th December at 2.00pm

Action: Carol to ask Carly Warner to promote among Little Saplings Parents and to the school community

Carol to ask Nathalie to place a notice in the pub

All committee members to promote the event

Action: All to think about future events including Arts & Crafts Workshops

● The **Spring Wreath making workshop** is to be held 21st March 2026 and costs £35

Action: All to publicise and encourage attendance.

Suggestions for future events:

- A **Games Evening? -** needs more consideration

● Potential future **bird box building** event could be held as the previous one was very successful

Action: Carol to raise with last year's event leads

● **Film Nights:** Future films possibly to include Audrey's Children; Nuremberg.

Suggestions to be put forward at the Christmas film event

● Christmas film is "It's A Wonderful Life". The event will include Mulled Wine; sausage rolls and mince pies

Action: All committee members to encourage people to attend and give Carol Film ideas

7. Maintenance & improvement of the hall

● Annual clean and tidy up - agreed that we would do a spring clean - Carol suggested half term week - 16th - 21st Feb - there are no classes that week.

Action: Everyone to check their diaries & bring suggestions to the next meeting in January

Internal decoration - see PC feedback

8. Health & Safety

● It was agreed to do a fire evacuation drill whilst decorating the Village Hall with Christmas decorations

9. Any other business

● Date agreed to put up Christmas decorations in the Village Hall for Saturday 29th November.

Jenny suggested it would be good to get some external decorations.

Action: Carol to investigate purchasing battery operated external lights

Dates of regular meetings: 4th Monday of every other month at 7-9pm 2026

26th Jan 2026

23rd Mar 2026

May - AGM - date to be agreed