

The rules of Creeting St Mary Diamond Jubilee Village Hall

Communication to community re reason for change

The Creeting St Mary Village Hall is managed by a charity. The members of the Village Hall Management Committee are Trustees with legal obligations to comply with the rules of the charity and to act in the best interest of the beneficiaries of the charity – principally the population of the Parish of Creeting St Mary.

The current rules of the charity that manages the Village Hall was prepared and finalised in 1969 – nearly 50 years ago. In the period since then much has changed including, for example:

- The act of parliament that governs charities has changed several times – from the 1960 Charities Act to the 2011 Charities Act
- The Creeting St Mary Mothers Union – one of the nominating bodies for Village Hall Management Committee members – has ceased to exist since 1969
- The regulatory body that governs charities has changed from the Department of Education and Science to the Charity Commission

Given that so much has changed, during the last year the Village Hall Management Committee has appointed a sub-committee to review the rules bearing in mind the changes above, developments in charity regulation and suggestions from within the village as to improvements that might be made to these rules. In carrying out their review, the sub-committee was able to look at model rules supplied by Suffolk ACRE (ACRE stands for Action with Communities in Rural England) and take advice in relation to good practice in other local charities.

Attached to this note are draft proposed rules which are being recommended by the Village Hall Management Committee for consideration by members of the village and, subject to consultation and revision, for approval to become the new rules governing charity running the Village Hall subject to approval of rule changes by the Charity Commission.

The main rule changes that we feel should be drawn to the attention of readers are:

Rule number	Explanation of the change
1	Revision of the name to include Diamond Jubilee, reflecting the agreed name change made some years ago
3	Beneficiaries adjusted to “Civil Parish of Creeting St Mary”, excluding the words “and neighbourhood” as this makes those who are intended to benefit rather clearer but also adding the words “but not exclusively” to allow for others also to benefit
4	It is proposed that the Management Committee membership be increased from nine to ten given the benefit of being able to have one more member of the committee if needed
4	The Mothers’ Union is deleted and each of the Governing body of the village school and the Social Club are added as nominating parties
7.3.1	A minimum number of 3 Trustees is proposed to avoid the risk that the charity has no-one in a position of management responsibility at any time – to help ensure continuity
12	It is proposed that the Management Committee should meet at the very least 3 times per annum (the committee currently meets at least around 6 times per annum) and the notice normally required for Management Committee and other meetings is increased to 14 days
13	Provision is made for the appointment of a Vice Chair if this is thought to be helpful at any time in the future

15	It is suggested that the Committee be able to call an AGM at any time up to 90 days after the end of the financial year – this will allow more time for preparation and consideration of annual accounts before the AGM. It is also proposed that the Annual Accounts should be accessible to the public at least 14 days before the AGM to allow time to understand the accounts and to be able to ask questions at the AGM
17	Provision is made for the establishment of a Sinking Fund to encourage the setting aside of funds for large projects to keep the Village Hall in good condition, for example, for the future replacement of the heating system. This arrangement encourages sensible financial planning and assessment of future spending needs.

The purpose of this note and of the making available the proposals for rule changes is to allow anyone in the Village who is interested and who has either views to express or questions to ask to be able to do so. If you have any views or questions please contact any one of the following:

- Richard Hyde – sub-committee member [cr.hyde@btinternet.com]
- David Allan – sub-committee member [david.a.allan@btconnect.com]
- William Barnes – sub-committee member [WBarnes@barnesgroup.co.uk]
- Christine Bingley – Village Hall Management Committee Chair [christine.bingley@gmail.com]

The proposed constitution will be able to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting and, if approved, adopted at that meeting. If there is good reason to allow more time for consideration of the changes then the approval will be deferred to a later Extraordinary General Meeting, The date and time of that meeting will be notified at least 14 days before the meeting and the relevant documents will again be posted on the Village noticeboards and on the noticeboard in the Village Hall as well as on the Village Website.

Trustees of the Creeping St Mary Diamond Jubilee Hall

June 2019