

NAILSWORTH YOUTH & COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7.00pm Upstairs Meeting Room, Nailsworth Subscription Rooms, GL6 0HH

Present: Jonathan Duckworth (JD), Chair; Les Haines (LH), Secretary; Fern Bratby (FB); Fred Ashworth (FA); Pam Brown (PB); Mark Smeaton (MS); Biddy Turner (Nailsworth Voices); Derek Pitt; David Range

Apologies: Tracy Shipp (TS) Treasurer; Dave Parker (DP); Cliff Jordan (CJ); Claudia Weston (CW); Mark Peer (MP); Cllr. Luke Stewart (LS); Iain McIver (IM); Gavin Pond (GP)

1. **Welcome:** Chair welcomed all to the 2025 AGM.

2. **Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting 20th November 2024:** The Minutes of last year's AGM had been circulated soon after that meeting and approved by the trustees at their meeting on 22nd January.

3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

4. **Chair's Report** - Jonathan Duckworth said:

'Introduction:

Nailsworth Youth and Community Enterprise has had a steady year, settling down after the recent improvements to the building. Steps that have been taken over the last few years have ensured that the fabric of the building is in good condition and we are seeing reducing energy costs as a result of our energy conservation and generation changes.

We are still in a strong financial situation, with a good income and controlled costs. Given the challenges that the national economy has at the moment, this is good and a credit to the trustees of the charity.

It will be appropriate for us to look at what other improvements or changes we might be able to do to the building over the next few years and also have a review of how we can further the charity's aims in Nailsworth.

Trustees:

We have continued with a wonderful team of skilled Trustees, to ensure that NYCE is meeting its Charitable Objects.

Trustees work to meet NYCE's charitable object, which is *"the provision of facilities for education, in particular, but not exclusively, for young people resident in Nailsworth and the surrounding area through their leisure time activities"*.

Acting as unsalaried volunteers, Trustees exercise their legal responsibilities by reporting our activities and financial position to the Charity Commission and in carrying out their functions have devoted 100's of hours of voluntary service this year. The Business Plan is monitored and reported on every 6 months.

I'd like to particularly thank Les who has worked tirelessly as Secretary and also as a very committed working party member.

A big thank you to all Trustees; your enthusiasm and commitment is hugely important in making the Sub Rooms the success it is.

Activities and works in the last year:

In late 2024 the lane near the pedestrian entrance to the tennis courts was given another layer of road material to provide a better surface and reduce puddling.

The flooring in the mini kitchen on the upper ground floor was upgraded in January 2025.

A section of worn out wooden panelling below the main hall front window was replaced and re-painted to match the existing.

It is great to hear that the Tennis Club was able to change their lighting system to LEDs in the spring. This has been on the cards for a few years, so it's great to see it done, and it will reduce their electricity costs and improve their carbon footprint.

After a review we decided to add a second battery to our solar panel system. This will hopefully make further savings to the building's electricity bills.

In August, Fern masterminded the change of the last three external windows to be updated. These new windows match the existing hall ones that were changed two years ago. They have transformed the look of the building, reduced heat loss, reduced outside noise, improved ventilation in the warmer months and made cleaning and general maintenance much easier.

There have been working parties to keep the grounds and gardens in a tidy condition, and again thank you to all those involved.

Thank you to everyone involved with this charity, the building and its activities. You all work hard to secure and enhance a wonderful community asset for Nailsworth’.

5. Statement of Accounts & Treasurer’s Report -Tracy Shipp:

5.1 2024/25 Accounts – The accounts for the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 had been presented to the trustees and subsequently approved at their meeting held on Wednesday 24th September.

In summary, annual income was £27,269 and expenditure was £20,092

On 18th November 2025 the charity had £45,725.77 on account (which is a slightly higher amount than this time last year) with no outstanding debts. Again, thank you to all our long-standing and more recent users for their support. **Action:** LH to upload Annual Accounts / Report to Charity Commission website

6. Reports by Main User Groups:

6.1 Tennis Club – Mark Peer, Chairman reported:

‘This last year has been a good one for the Tennis Club. Membership numbers are healthy, still not what they were pre-Covid, however numbers are slowly increasing.

We entered 6 teams, 3 Ladies and 3 Men’s, in the county summer league. Our Men’s B and C teams won promotion and our Ladies B and C held their own in their leagues. A tough season for both our A teams made them unable to stay in their respective Division 1’s – a combination of injuries and non-availability were the main reasons for relegation, however, overall it was a good season with some strong tennis being played.

We have 2 Ladies teams in the Senior winter league – these matches started in October and are normally played during the day with home matches on a Monday.

Pickleball is still being played; it went through a bit of a lull but numbers have started to increase.

Shingi, our coach, has continued success with his coaching sessions on a Monday and Friday evening and they are well attended – he makes them fun and enjoyable with a structured coaching programme. Due to coaching demand, especially from the Juniors he has started sessions on a Saturday morning. Juniors attending range in age from 7 to 17 years.

We have just completed our venue registration for 2025/26 which continues our affiliation / insurance with the LTA. We are fully compliant with safeguarding and with the latest LTA policy on equality and diversity.

In March this year we changed our floodlights to LED’s from halogen. We also had to upgrade our electrical controls inside the club-room and the meter box. The cost of the upgrades was just over £15K. A significant outlay, however the light quality and the instant light have been so welcomed by members. The other main advantage is the reduction in running costs as we are now at 23% cost compared with the old lamps which were costing £6.25 per hour to run.

In the New Year we will be obtaining quotations for replacement perimeter fencing around the main courts as much of it is rusty and starting to break down. Green-coated Weldmesh as used in schools would be ideal but it is expensive so replacement fencing will probably be as it is now i.e. green plastic-coated chain-link.’

6.2 School of Larks – Claudia Weston, Leader reports:

‘School of Larks have a busy weekend ahead with their showcase *Whispers and Wings* at the Festival of Wonder this Friday. We are also offering a 3 hour workshop to performance for young people and various performances over the weekend.

We are also preparing our tree for the Christmas Tree Festival next week.

More preparations are going ahead for our winter Holiday Activity and Foods (HAF) workshops – some of which are happening at Nailsworth Subscription Rooms. We have received some funding to offer after-school clubs at 12 different schools over the next few months. Everything is ticking along nicely.’

6.3 Community Workshops – Pam Brown, Administrator reports:

‘The last year has been much the same as previous years with the same teaching groups and opportunities – Men’s Shed, Pi Guitars, Cotswold Chine, Home Education, Production Workshop and an open teaching session for all – with numbers staying good. We have also started a mixed teaching group on a Monday afternoon. On average we have 100 people through the workshop each week.

Our weekend courses continue to make Bows, Craft Knives, Automita models and Stained Glass panels. Last Christmas saw us attend two Christmas markets where we both sold the products made in the workshop and spread the word about the workshop. This is a vital part of the production workshop as it helps the students feel good about what they have made, seeing that they are valuable to others.

Just before Christmas we had a Pi Guitars Business Evening where we showed the short film Pip Heywood made about the 12 hours guitar-build followed by the Billy Bragg concert last year. We invited local business people, town councillors, the committee and our local MP among other supporters. The evening was more successful than we could have thought as it led to three incredible opportunities. The first to contact us was Athilla from Holy Spirits to offer an evening tasting their whisky with us providing matching food and music. The evening raised £720 and paid for the best part of a guitar (the remaining money came from Renishaw) which was donated to a music charity in Manchester.

The second offer came from Luke Stewart offering us the use of his barn to hold a one day music festival which we called *Pi in the Sky*. This was something we had never done before but was very successful and great fun, again offering the opportunity to the community to both play and listen to music and gave us another platform to promote Pi Guitars and indeed raise just under £3,000 to support our work. We were and continue to be grateful to all the support we are given.

The third offer was an anonymous donation of £1,000 for a guitar which was donated to Heart Heroes charity in Gloucester.

Pi Guitars is regularly joined by new volunteers and continues to make beautiful guitars. We went to a guitar show in Bristol where we sold two guitars and have had another two sold from the workshop. We also had one sponsored by Barnwood Builders which went to Gloucester Music Works for their new venture in the Forest of Dean.

We continue to offer the chance for couples to make each other wedding rings and have been part of three couples' journeys this year.

The Men's Shed made a music desk for Eastwood Park Women's Prison which was a great complement to the guitar-stand the Teens in Shed students from Cotswold Chine made previously. They are currently making a sign for the National Trust.

There have been a couple of gigs in the workshop where we open up to the community in a different way. At the Patsy Gamble evening in January we drew the winner of the guitar raffle – something we are doing again this year.

Also supporting our work this year has been the Rausing Foundation who have agreed to grant us £13,500 a year for the next three years; and we came second in the Tesco Community Fund bid and received £1000.

All in all another great year for the workshop'

6.4 Phoenix Table-tennis – Cliff Jordan, Leader reports:

'Since the previous AGM our Club has been successfully increasing its "open to all, come and try out table tennis, Fun and Fitness for all ages" approach. And this is proving to be good. We have mostly retained all our members other than a couple who have moved away from the area but most importantly gained 10% more new members.

We had 8 teams entered in the 2024/25 Stroud TT League. Our A team were overall winners in Division 1 and we were runners-up in the Albert Mann Stroud competition.

Bat 'n Chat progressed up until the Spring and is restarting in November (not sure who Fern is putting forward as a Fall GUY!!!)

Our Junior and Adult Friday evening / night coaching sessions are still in full swing. The Friday and Saturday mornings open-to-all sessions are still going ahead. The new TT Winter League is now in its 5th week and we have 7 teams competing over the 4 Divisions.

Our Club NPTTC Representative Veterans' Team are progressing in the National Division A competition and have progressed to the 2nd round.

Since our last AGM we have successfully hosted two Level 1 TT coaching courses and gained 4 new coaches within our Club as well as 3 others within other clubs in our league. We have another coaching Level 1 course starting at the end of November – this time being held at Blue Coats School near Rednock / Wickwar area. This is to draw in and allow participants that want to achieve a Level 1 coaching award from our other Gloucestershire County league areas. It already looks like we have more interest than available places. Overall the Stroud League TT development programme is growing at a steady rate with activity in 3 new schools and 2 new clubs now underway. We are at present seeing an increase in interest not just within our local area but also throughout the South-West TT counties. May be it is due to the World TT competition that will be held in London in March and April 2026?

So in conclusion, TT is looking great for our Club and on behalf of all or members in NPTTC I would like to send our thanks to NYCE and all the Trustees for allowing us to continue in the Subscription Rooms and for supporting us over the last year and all the previous years.'

7. Election of Trustees/ Co-opted Persons 2026:

7.1 All trustees have indicated they wish to serve for another year and MS is happy to continue as a co-opted supporter. We have a vacancy for at least one more co-opted person. LH said that public notices advertising the AGM had been displayed in various places including the Civic Centre and Library with the usual plea for 'additional voluntary help'. No other persons had come forward to express an interest in becoming a new trustee and therefore the current trustees were duly elected *en bloc*.

8. Election of Officers:

8.1 The three serving Officers of the charity, namely Chair, Treasurer and Secretary were happy to serve a further term and there were no other nominations for these positions. Therefore the list of Trustees and Officers for 2026 is as follows:

Jonathan Duckworth	Chair	Officer
Tracy Shipp	Treasurer	Officer
Les Haines	Secretary	Officer
Fred Ashworth	Trustee	
Fern Bratby	Trustee	
Pam Brown	Trustee / Community Workshops	
Cliff Jordan	Trustee / Phoenix Table-tennis	
Iain McIvor	Trustee	
Dave Parker	Trustee	
Mark Peer	Trustee / Nailsworth Tennis Club	
Claudia Weston	Trustee / School of Larks	
Cllr. Luke Stewart	Trustee / Nailsworth Town Council	
Mark Smeaton	Co-opted supporter	
Vacancy	Co-opted supporter	

Actions: (i) LH will notify the Charity Commission of the names of those trustees currently responsible for the governance of the Charity;

(ii) An up-to-date list of trustees will be published on the Charity's website and a notice will be displayed on the notice-board in the main hall for the information of user groups and the visiting public (PB&LH).

9. Any Questions / Comments:

9.1 Biddy Turner commented that she and her choir members were happy with the facilities in the building and especially the acoustics of the hall which were excellent for their purposes. She added that in the cooler months of the year the hall took a long while to heat up and asked whether the committee could look into the heating arrangements to make improvements.

In response JD said that a working group had reviewed this subject earlier this year and this had included looking at the merits of air source heat pumps against the existing gas-fuelled system, seeking advice from energy experts and visiting Amberley Church where they have a similar challenge of trying to heat up a large public space quickly. Our current consumption of electricity and gas was considered by the experts to be surprisingly low considering the nature of the building and its multi-purpose use.

The conclusion reached by committee after that first phase of enquiries was that the likely cost of wholesale changes did not offer sufficient benefits and an optimum outcome could only be achieved with a hybrid solution using a range of energy sources. That said, trustees had already determined in their September meeting to begin a further review of heating and ventilation in the forthcoming January meeting.

Actions: (i) An immediate action was agreed viz. Fern to ask Jon Hammond to look at the thermostat settings and timings to allow heating for a longer set period.

(ii) JD and LH to discuss the parameters for a further review of heating/ ventilation and will then confer with the rest of the team.

9.2. MS asked whether the tennis club's lighting improvements which had resulted in better playing conditions had also resulted in any complaints from neighbouring residents?

LH said that the lights were permitted to be on until 22.00hrs and he was not aware of any complaints thus far.

9.3 There being no further business, Chair brought the AGM to a close for the provision of refreshments, followed by a short committee meeting.

9.4. The time/ date of the next Annual General Meeting was later set as **7.00pm Wednesday 18th November 2026.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Signed

Position

Date

**Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Registered with the Charity Commission, Number: 1161113**