

**MILLHOUSE INSTITUTE
MANCHESTER ROAD
MILLHOUSE GREEN
SHEFFIELD S36 9NR**

MINUTES OF MEETING WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2026 AT 6 PM

PRESENT

Jon Johnson (Chairman), Graham Myers (Treasurer), Helen Orrell (Chair of Trustees), Jennifer Pickering (Secretary), David Allaway (Millhouse Green MV Choir), Robert Eastwood (Thurlstone Band), Liz Hill and Sarah Everson

APOLOGIES

Ruth Pearson (Trustee)

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING HELD 30 OCTOBER 2025

Approved as a correct record

MATTERS ARISING

The former cleaners have now been let go with volunteers helping keep the Hall clean until new ones are appointed, the Chairman has this in hand

Matthew Nicholson for Bullhouse Chapel and Alison Caswell for Thurlstone and Millhouse Green Methodist Church have been informally approached and indicated they are willing to serve on the Committee. A formal letter of invitation is to be sent to both.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Christmas Fair on 30 November had been a huge success, and particular thanks were expressed to Thurlstone Band. A borrowed PA system was used with limited success. A total of £603 had been banked.

The usual Summer Fair will be held, enquiries already received from stallholders.

Improvements continue in the Community Garden, with the **Chairman** purchasing and planting 4 plum trees. Ryan (the owner of Rolo, the dog) has made a planter and a cherry tree is planted in it. The **Chairman** appealed for seeds and plants for the coming season and offers of any kind of help would be appreciated. A rota will hopefully be drawn up for the regular maintenance tasks.

The Chairman is submitting a bid for funding from the GCA School Holidays Enrichment Fund with a view to planning garden-based activities for the school holidays, such as planting, growing, learning about soil and compost, etc.

So far 18 people have signed up as Friends of the Institute at various levels, the level of financial gain this represents is in excess of £700 so far. A Newsletter is to be produced for distribution to these Friends, also made available to the Committee and possibly for wider distribution.

Suggestions for new activities at the Hall include:

Visiting speakers e.g. on Tai Kwando, Honey Production, locally based footballers, and a local who recently walked the length of the British coastline.

At this point the issue of a monthly Coffee Morning was raised and there was some discussion around food hygiene. It was decided that Sarah would pursue this with a view to beginning in a small way, targetting specific groups such as parents on their way home from dropping children off at school, looking at the last Wednesday in the month.

Our Trustee Helen Orrell than raised the possibility of the creation of a dedicated WhatsApp group solely for Committee Members, to be used for the circulation of business matters. The Chairman will pursue this, adding in everyone on the Committee, including those newly appointed from Bullhouse and the Methodist Church.

The Chairman then explained that the storeroom floor needs completely replacing, along with a new support joist, and offered to do this work himself. It may also need the walls boarding out later in the year. It was reported that several signs of water ingress from the roof are to be checked out by roofer Ryan Rhodes. The Chairman is to obtain a quotation for re-surfacing all or part of the car park.

More leaflet invitations to be Friends are to be made available at Kayes, the pub and at the school.

As there is money available to spend, it was suggested we buy planters to put around the Christmas tree area for bulbs, etc. Bulbs have already been planted in the grass near the tree and also near the village signs. It was suggested that more Christmas tree lights are needed and at this point the Secretary was asked to write a letter of thanks to Mr Pears who gave a generous donation to the cost of this year's lights. It was also suggested that the tree would benefit from judicious pruning, and the lights may look more effective. Clarification was asked of the details of the Friends scheme and a sign-up form was made available.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer had presented the accounts to the Committee prior to the meeting to give us all a chance to peruse them. He reported that the Institute is in a very satisfactory financial position, with

Total Income this financial year	£5526.28
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Total Expenditure	£5550.55
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leaving a very small deficit, but more or less a break-even position. The Current account now has a balance of **£10165.17**, and the Bond stands at **£4261.29**. With a few odds and ends this gives a total figure of **£14536.92**.

There are now several reliable income streams in place: Thurlstone Band, the Male Voice Choir, the Bowling Club, etc and the Christmas Fair; there is also a collecting box at the Huntsman and in Penistone Tesco. There have also been one-offs such as the Choir Concert which was very popular.

Expenditure included a printer for the Committee's use and the new Christmas Lights, whose aforesaid cost was generously offset by the Pears donation. The Treasurer reported that the Post Office Savings Bond is due to mature on 18 March this year, and as it is invested in the personal names of David and Wendy, he would approach them with a reminder. There will then be the need to find a new investment vehicle. The Choir recently had an evening inviting new potential members to come for a taster session, expecting about 6 and having 22. They have now added singing lessons to the Hall usage, and expect to hire the hall at the usual hourly rate of £15 for several sessions. The Band has now paid their fee of £700 which was due for 2025

No new hall bookings have yet been received, although enquiries have been made. It was agreed that the Secretary write to the U3A offering the Hall, as it is understood they may be looking for a venue.

TRUSTEES' REPORT

In Ruth Pearson's absence Helen Orrell reported that the Charity Commission had given a positive response to our application; there was, however, a problem with the wording of the Trust Deed. An adviser had looked at the problem, but said it needed a more specialist opinion, which might take a while to obtain. The Commission had refused to grant any additional time, and we should therefore have to re-apply, which is to be pursued further, as the benefits to be obtained are well worth having.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sarah reported that our website **Millhouseinstitute.org** is now live, with help from her young family, and up and running, with a Home page, a noticeboard, information of our history and space for a Newsletter. It has links to the Band and Choir, and a link for contact by email, but the hall booking element is still to be added. The possibility of the Hall having community WiFi was raised and the **Chairman** will look into this, but we need to be convinced of its value and potential usage. The date for the Summer Fair was fixed for **Saturday 4 July**. Prize draw winners from the new Friends for the first month were drawn, John O'Brien and Fiona Crossley. It was suggested we arrange a Beer Festival, perhaps jointly with The Huntsman and the Blacksmiths Arms. The discrepancy in the names the village is known by in the titles of the various organisation was raised by the Secretary, and it was suggested the issue be raised on Facebook to ascertain whether anyone has historical information available, which then can be added to the website.

The date of the next meeting was fixed for **Wednesday 8 April at 6 pm.**

ACTION LIST

- **Chairman**
- to arrange new Hall cleaners
- to draw up a rota for garden maintenance
- to organise a WhatsApp group dedicated for Committee members
- to obtain a quotation for car park re-surfacing

- to make more Friends invitations available around the village – shop, pubs, Churches and possibly the school

- **Secretary**

- to contact Matthew Nicholson (Bullhouse Chapel) and Dr Alison Caswell (Thurlstone and Millhouse Green Methodist Church) re their appointments to the Committee
- to contact U3A offering our Hall facilities
- to thank J G Pears for the generous donation towards the Christmas lighting

- **Ruth Pearson**

- Pursue Charity Commission application after taking further advice.

- **Treasurer**

- to approach the previous Chairman re maturity of the Post Office Bond due on 18 March, and find a possible new investment vehicle

- **Sarah Everson**

- to pursue a monthly Coffee Morning in the Hall