

Welford & Weston-on-Avon Memorial Hall: constitution, charity status, land and trustees

Compiled 14 October 2026 from the Society archive scans (Claude 1000/Folder NN/..., cited as folder/item, e.g. **60/04**) and, where marked [**Public**], from web search results for the Charity Commission register. The Commission's own site could not be opened from here, so public facts come from search-result summaries and should be checked on the register itself.

1. Constitution (governing documents)

The founding Trust Deed, 1 September 1926

Source: **60/04** pp. 22–23 (full transcription); rules also in **60/045** pp. 2–3.

- Title: "Trust Deed of The Welford and Weston-on-Avon Memorial Hall at Welford-on-Avon in the County of Gloucester."
- Recital: a Memorial Hall "has recently been erected on a plot of land adjoining the Main Street in the Village of Welford-on-Avon ... with moneys obtained by public subscription to the memory of those belonging to the two adjoining villages of Welford-on-Avon and Weston-on-Avon who fell in the late Great War."
- The trustees "have been duly constituted the first Trustees" and the hall "has been delivered into their possession."
- **Object:** the trustees hold the hall "upon trust to permit the same to be used in perpetuity under the name of 'The Welford and Weston-on-Avon Memorial Hall' by and for the benefit of the inhabitants of the said two Villages", under the scheduled rules.
- The original deed was kept at the Midland Bank, Stratford-on-Avon (**60/04** p. 27; **60/045** p. 2).

The 1926 Schedule (16 rules)

Source: **60/04** pp. 23–24 and pp. 27–28; **60/045** pp. 2–3.

1. Name: "The Welford and Weston-on-Avon Memorial Hall".
2. Property vested in **nine life trustees**. If they fall below five, the Management Committee calls a public meeting of the two villages to fill the vacancies. Trustees must be bona fide residents of Welford or Weston-on-Avon.
3. Management by a committee of not more than 15, elected by the two villages at a public meeting each January; retires 31 December; may fill casual vacancies. 4–5. Committee responsible for finance and general business, rates and taxes, fire insurance and upkeep.
4. Committee elects Chairman and Vice-Chairman; Secretary and Treasurer (may be one person) elected at the AGM. 7–10. Hall for general use of the two parishes but may be let to others; charges set by the committee and prepaid; hirers liable for damage and conduct; nothing fixed or stored without consent.

5. Two committee members hold the keys.
6. Trustees' or committee meeting on written request of three trustees or three committee members.
7. Quorum two-thirds of either body, never fewer than three.
8. No intoxicants without permission; gambling and bad language prohibited.
9. Audited accounts to 31 December presented at the AGM.
10. Committee may alter or make rules, subject to confirmation by the trustees.

A pre-decimal Scale of Charges was attached (**60/04** p. 29; **60/045** pp. 4–5); **60/045** shows it was in force by 1935 (matches the Jubilee hire in **60/09**).

Revised Rules, 1969–70

Source: **60/04** pp. 16–21, 25–26, 30–32.

- 10 Oct 1969: Ken Court, Secretary, Hall Management Committee, writes to trustee R. E. Wright proposing new rules; says each of “the seven Trustees” must give approval; trustees' meeting 20 Oct 1969 (**60/04** p. 30).
- Rules approved at a trustees' meeting on 21 Oct 1969, “professionally drafted to be set out in legal form”, sent 14 Aug 1970 for confirmation (**60/04** p. 26).
- Draft Schedule of nine rules proposed **three** trustees, with “9 Life” pencilled above (**60/04** pp. 31–32).
- Adopted 12-rule version: property vested in the surviving trustees “Mrs A. Clarke and Messrs P. H. Barnett, R. B. Bluck, E. M. Davis, A. T. N. Montague and R. E. Wright ... and thereafter in **not more than five nor less than three** Trustees” (Rule 2).
- Trustees hold office for life unless they cease to be resident (on the electoral roll of either parish) or retire; vacancies filled by election at the Annual Public Meeting in January; a special public meeting within 28 days if fewer than three (Rule 4).
- Committee of 9–15 residents elected at the Annual Public Meeting; Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer elected by residents; Vice-Chairman by the committee (Rules 5–6).
- Trustees' quorum two; committee quorum half; Annual Public Meeting in the hall each January with 14 days' notice on the hall exterior; audited accounts to 31 Dec; committee may change rules subject to trustees' confirmation; hire conditions circulated annually (Rules 7–12).

Later history of the governing documents

- 25 Nov 1991: solicitor Adrian M. Organ (Geoffrey Parker Bourne, Stratford) sends trustee R. Wright “all of the Deeds I am holding”: the 1926 Trust Deed; a photocopy Trust Deed “which refers to a Charities Act registration of 25/11/64”; Deeds of Appointment of 1952 and 1981; a copy of the Rules. Wright signs the receipt 28 Nov 1991 (**60/04** pp. 3–7).
 - The Parish Council deposit at Warwickshire County Record Office, **CR3640/1/2**, is “Welford and Weston on Avon Memorial Hall, including plans and trust deeds, 1926–1981” (**50/41**).
 - **[Public]** The Charity Commission lists the charity as a trust (organisation type “Trust”); the governing-document page itself could not be read.
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2. Charity status

- **[Public]** Registered charity **No. 523032**, “The Welford and Weston on Avon Memorial Hall”, registered **25 November 1964** (standard registration). Area of benefit Welford-on-Avon and Weston-on-Avon; objects to keep the hall for the benefit of the inhabitants of the two villages; activity “running and maintaining the hall for the use of the village”. Reporting up to date; year end 31 Dec; 2024 income £11,653, expenditure £15,662; no trustee remuneration. Address High Street, Welford on Avon, CV37 8EF. ([register](#), [OpenCharities](#), [booking page](#))
- **Archive corroboration of the 1964 date:** the 1991 solicitor’s schedule records a “Charities Act registration of 25/11/64” (**60/04** pp. 5–6).
- **Registration correspondence, 1963–64:** a note from Welford Rectory, 19 Mar 1968, sends “the relevant reference numbers of any correspondence with the Charity Commissioners re registering the Memorial Hall as a charity”: letters of 20 Aug 1963 (P. J. Harkin), 8 Oct 1963 (P. C. Pyman, ref. P.C.P/142100/WARW), a memo of 30 Mar 1964 (D. Forrest), and a 14 Sep 1964 call about a letter sent to the Department of Education & Science legal branch (**57/14**, inside the 57/06–15 PDF). The DES link suggests the hall was also treated as a recreational charity, but that is inferred.
- 1968: when the separate Welford-on-Avon Trust Fund registered, the Commission asked for the Memorial Hall’s governing instruments, because the hall is a named beneficiary (**57/14; 60/01**).
- 1986 Charity Commission leaflet AC7, “Charity Accounts: Notes for Charity Trustees”, is in the hall’s deed file (**60/04** pp. 8–11).
- 1991: the committee was told “No VAT would be payable as the Hall was registered as a charity” (**60/06**).
- Charitable village halls’ 50% mandatory rate relief is discussed in a WRCC village-halls newsletter (**04/01–14**); general, not specific to this hall.

Related charities (not the hall itself)

- **Welford-on-Avon Trust Fund** (Dingley’s fête trust, agreement 14 Nov 1934): up to 25% of its funds could go to “the Trustees of the Welford and Weston Memorial Hall” for permanent purposes (**60/03, 57/04, 06/14**). It was registered charity No. 254926 on 12 Aug 1968 and removed from the register 15 Aug 1991 (**57/06–15**). It granted the hall £200 in May 1982, “the near full amount allowed by the trust deed” (**60/01; 58/08**); a 1974 grant request is in **58/04**.
 - The Shorthouse Bidston Allotment Trust land was suggested for a new hall in 1991; the Parish Council chairman said the trust required allotment use (**60/06**).
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3. Land ownership

What the deeds say

- 1926: hall erected “on a plot of land adjoining the Main Street”; it was “delivered into” the trustees’ possession. **No conveyance of the site is recited** (**60/04** pp. 22–23).
- 1952 and 1981 Deeds of Appointment: the surviving trustees are “seised in fee simple in possession of the Memorial Hall and the land forming the site and curtilage thereof”;

the **freehold** is vested in old and new trustees as joint tenants on the 1926 trusts (60/04 pp. 1, 13–14).

Before the hall: parish property

- The site was the parish-owned cottage and garden “adjoining the old Cider House [?], now Site of Memorial Hall” (12/09; heading reading uncertain).
 - 28 Sep 1904: three applications to rent “the Cottage and Garden belonging to this Parish”; not relet.
 - 25 Jan 1905: G. Ellis Garrard, solicitor of Evesham, asks to buy it for a client; council declines to sell.
 - 28 Jul 1915: tenant C. Horne asks to repair it and live there for life, reverting to the council at his death.
 - 31 Oct 1917: on Horne’s death, a parish meeting called to consider offering the Parish Garden as a site for a Parish Room. (12/09; same events in Woodward’s minute notes 18/13, 18/14.)
- 29 Jan 1919: Parish Council minute “Parish Garden Site for War Mem. Hall”; 1920: offers to purchase parish property deferred “till Site of proposed Memorial Hall was settled” (18/14).
- 1918 appeal: the committee “selected a suitable Site in the main street” (23/91–96); the 1920 meeting recalls “a piece of land near the Maypole” (23/91–96 p. 6). Benjamin Stone’s photo shows the small cottage “where Memorial Hall now stands” beside the maypole (10/25).

Who owned the site? (conflict)

- **Parish:** the Parish Council minutes consistently call it parish property (12/09, 18/13, 18/14).
- **Lord Sackville:** Alec Bryan’s note: “The site on which it was built belonged to Lord Sackville” (11/04). At the District Council plans hearing (1923), Mr Bluck questioned “whether the land ... belonged to the parish”; Mr Bicknell “thought that the land originally belonged to Lord Sackville, and in the late lord’s time the Council used to pay a small acknowledgment for it. This was not claimed for several years and the parish took possession.” The plans were approved anyway (23/91–96 p. 5).
- If Bicknell was right, the parish’s title rested on possession, not a deed. No conveyance from either the Parish Council or the Sackville estate to the hall trustees has been found.

Extra land, neighbours and boundary, 1923

- At the Oct 1923 public meeting, “owing to a very kind offer and gift of **extra land** an extension had been made”, costing £67 10s more. The donor is not named (23/91–96 p. 5).
 - Walter Gould objected that the hall would block an “ancient light” of the house he held on a 15-year lease; Mr Bluck said the house belonged to him (23/91–96 p. 5).
 - A boundary fence was “about to be erected” in 1924 (23/91–96 p. 6).
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4. Trustees

Elected October 1923 (public meeting, “life trustees”)

Mrs Knowles, Mrs J. Basson, Rev. A. J. Davis, A. T. Montague, E. V. Parriss, V. Mainwaring, H. M. Woodward, Nelder, A. Davis (**23/91–96** p. 5).

First trustees under the Trust Deed, 1 Sept 1926 (60/04 pp. 22–23)

Name	Description in deed
Arthur Thomas Norgrave Montague	Farmer
Mary Edith Brew Knowles	Widow
Rev. Arthur James Davis	Rector of Welford
Alfred Davis	School Attendance Officer
Vincent Edward Mainwaring	Estate Agent
Ernest Valentine Parriss	Grocer
Francis James Nelder (of Milcote)	Railway Station Master
Holtham Mills Woodward	Market Gardener
Fanny Basson, wife of John Basson	(Market Gardener’s wife)

Deed of Appointment, 7 July 1952 (60/04 pp. 1–2, 24)

- Surviving: A. T. N. Montague (farmer), Rev. A. J. Davis (then c/o Standard Bank, Nairobi; signature witnessed by Reginald, Bishop of Mombasa), F. J. Nelder.
- Deceased: Knowles, Alfred Davis, Mainwaring, Parriss, Woodward, Fanny Basson.
- New (elected at a public meeting on 23 Jan 1952): Alice Clarke (wife of Percy Frederick Clarke), Emma Carrick Rushton (wife of Cyril Rushton), Robert Edward Wright (schoolmaster), Edgar Mills Davis, Percy Halford Barnett (railway signalman), Richard Butler Bluck of Weston (farmer). Witness W. E. Swinnock, The Retreat.
- Robert (“Bob”) Wright is confirmed as a trustee from 1952 (**11/54**), and was written to as trustee in 1969–70 (**60/04**), 1975 (**60/05**), 1990, 1991 and 1994 (**60/06**).

Trustees named in the 1969–70 Rules

Mrs A. Clarke, P. H. Barnett, R. B. Bluck, E. M. Davis, A. T. N. Montague, R. E. Wright (**60/04** pp. 16, 19).

Deed of Appointment, 30 January 1981 (60/04 pp. 12–15)

- Surviving: Alice Clarke, Robert Edward Wright, Percy Halford Barnett, Richard Butler-Bluck.
- New (elected at a public meeting): William Maurice Johnson, Judith Ann Roberts, Eileen Alice Woods (all Welford), Sanna Elizabeth Philippa Bluck (Weston).
- Witness R. D. Brookes, 7 Willow Bank. Prepared by Geoffrey Parker & Bourne.

Current trustees [Public], from search summaries of the register (not checked directly)

Harry Lambert, Richard Brookes, Betty Walker, Janet Foulkes (each shown as appointed 1 Jan 2010), Jean Stone, and Philippa Elizabeth Sanna Bluck (no dates shown). Philippa Bluck appears to be the trustee appointed in 1981. Jean Stone (treasurer 1991), a “Mrs B. Walker” (probably Betty) and Janet Folkes (booking secretary 1991) appear at the March 1991 committee meeting (**60/06**). Richard Brookes may be connected to the 1981 witness R. D. Brookes, but that is unconfirmed.

The management committee (not trustees, but part of the constitution)

- First committee of 15, Oct 1923 (**23/91–96** p. 5).
 - Secretaries: F. J. Nelder (hon. sec. 1923, **23/91–96**), Ken Court (1969–70, **60/04**), R. W. Hemmings (1975, **60/05**); Winston Walker chairman 1975 (**60/05**); Alan Smart’s new committee March 1991 after the old committee resigned (**60/06**).
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5. Gaps and conflicts

1. **No conveyance of the site.** The 1926 deed says only that the hall was “delivered into” the trustees’ possession. Later deeds assert a freehold in fee simple, but no transfer from the Parish Council or the Sackville estate has been found. The plans and deeds at Warwick (CR3640/1/2) are the place to check, along with HM Land Registry (whether the title is registered was not checked).
2. **Parish land or Lord Sackville’s?** Parish minutes (**12/09, 18/13–14**) say parish; Bryan (**11/04**) and Bicknell (**23/91–96**) say Sackville, with Bicknell saying the parish took it by possession.
3. **Who gave the “extra land”** in 1923 is not recorded (**23/91–96**).
4. **Trustee numbers don’t match the rules.** In 1926 there were 9 life trustees. The 1969 letter speaks of “seven Trustees” but the rules list six. The 1970 rules cap the number at 5, yet the 1981 deed made 8 (4 + 4). The register now shows 6.
5. **1952 deed date:** the deed says 7 July 1952; the 1991 solicitor’s schedule says 04/07/52 (**60/04**).
6. **1934 Trust Fund deed date:** 10 May (meeting/catalogue), 14 Nov (agreement) or 9 Aug (signatures) (**60/03, 50/41**). This concerns the related fund, not the hall.
7. **The 1964 registration file** (the 1963–64 Commission letters) is referenced but not in the archive (**57/14**).
8. **Trustees between 1981 and 2010** are not recorded, apart from Bob Wright’s continuing role to 1994 (**60/06**).
9. **No trustee minute book** survives in the archive; hall minute books before the 1960s are missing (noted in the earlier essay).
10. **Gloucestershire to Warwickshire:** the 1926 deed places the hall in Gloucestershire; the 1952 deed in Warwickshire (1931 boundary change).

Sources used

Archive files: 60/04, 60/045, 60/01, 60/03, 60/05, 60/06, 57/04 and 57/06–15 (incl. 57/14), 58/01–09, 50/41, 23/91–96, 12/09, 18/13, 18/14, 19/21, 11/04, 10/25, 11/54, 06/14, 04/01–14.

Public: Charity Commission register entry 523032 (via search results), OpenCharities 523032, the village booking page.