



Cherhill Village Hall

Registered Charity Number 1164373

Annual General Meeting 5th July 2021

Minutes

Chairman's Report

Accounts 2021

Minutes

Present:

Trustees: Simon Tomlinson (Chair), Alan Moore (Deputy Chair), John Cavanagh, David Cracknell, Bob Deacon, Dave Grafton, Keri Johnson, Maggie Moore, Adrian Wright

Apologies: Nathan Bliss, Sharon Simmons, Nick White

Also present: Liz Bates, Celia Grafton, Hilary Wright

Welcome and Chairman's Report

The Chair welcomed the attendees and presented the Annual Report which is attached to these minutes. The following points were amplified:

New Village Hall Fundraising. Alan Moore reported that following initial progress with funding bodies, including the National Lottery, the Covid pandemic had intervened and become the focus for grant awards. The plan is to restart the fundraising effort towards the end of this year or early in 2022.

Heating Problem. Signs of degradation in the oil storage tank had been detected and led to discussions about its replacement. Siting concerns for the replacement and a review of the system's performance had led to a wider examination of the heating system and possible plans for a significant refurbishment. Investigations are continuing but a significant 4-figure cost is likely.

Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Accounts Summary to the end of December 2020 which is attached to these minutes. He explained that the Operating Fund is used to run the current village hall: the Restricted Fund is established primarily to support the new village hall project and can only be used for specific purposes.

The Operating Fund balance increased by over £9800. Loss of revenue due to the Hall's closure during the pandemic had been mitigated by the receipt of grants from central government amounting to £11800, and further grants have since been received. The hall hire income reflected in the Summary, despite the Hall closure, is a result of invoicing lag. The principal expenditure item – repairs and maintenance – reflects the opportunity taken during the enforced closure to address the items needing attention.

The current financial situation is healthy as indicated by the account balances in the Accounts Summary.

Chair's Comments. The Chair reported that the hire charge holiday, initiated during the pandemic to support user groups, would come to an end in the current week. He also outlined the ongoing process to purchase the field in Park Lane which will be the site of the new hall.

Re-election of Trustees

Nathan Bliss, David Cracknell, Alan Moore and Nick White were re-elected unopposed to serve a further term of 3 years as Trustees.

User Group Reports

Yoga. Classes are continuing with a combination of a maximum class size of 10 attendees in person plus online participation via a live stream. The latter was introduced during the pandemic and has proved popular.

Oldbury Wednesday Club. Meetings have not resumed and membership has dwindled to about 10 people. Future plans and arrangements are under discussion.

WI. Meetings have resumed with 2 being held so far. Membership is currently 30.

Gardening Club. A social event is planned for 22nd July after which further plans will be reviewed.

Theatre Group. A suite of short plays is planned for October and there is interest in a panto for Jan/Feb 2022.

Auction. The 2021 Auction is planned for 23rd October, planning and preparation are underway.

The Booking Clerk reported that Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have returned to the Hall, as has the Monday Toddlers' Group.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Cherhill Village Hall – Chairman’s Report 2021

The first quarter of 2020 was quite normal with a high level of activity in the hall. And then Covid brought it all to a halt and the hall had to be closed. Since the start of the first lockdown, although there was a period in the summer when some activity took place the Trustees nevertheless chose not to charge hire fees to the few groups who used the hall to help hirers whose own finances were hit by the situation. As a result since the income from the first quarter 2020 invoicing was received the hall has not received any more rental income. Covid has shown though that the solar panels almost bring in sufficient income to keep the hall ticking over by covering most of the fixed costs that we cannot turn off such as insurances and background heating, etc. A lower level cleaning regime was also maintained with the cleaners taking the opportunity to deep clean parts of the kitchen, etc. Fortunately the Hall accounts had healthy reserves going into the lockdown and in addition we have been very fortunate to receive substantial retail and hospitality grant funding from government which leaves the charity’s finances in a strong position. It is, however, the Trustees’ intention to re-start hire charging after the AGM.

Throughout the course of the pandemic Trustees have had to keep up to date with Covid legislation to keep the hall Covid secure and users safe during the times when they have been able to use the hall. This has involved giving advice on developing safe ways of operating in the hall, providing cleaning materials and preparing both our own risk assessments and helping users to prepare theirs. Support and advice on this has come from Community First and ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England). For the recent use of the hall as a polling station, Wiltshire Council carried out a Covid inspection and considered the hall Covid secure – something which not all halls were able to achieve.

During the early part of the first lockdown a local member of our community offered the hall a large 55” TV screen on a wheeled stand that was no longer required by his business for which the Trustees were most grateful. This is now stored in the small meeting room and available for any hirer to use.

To make use of the quiet time a number of maintenance projects have been undertaken :-

- Full internal re-decoration;
- Cladding to the back wall of the carpark to cover up the crumbling render;
- Repair and repaint of the white rendering around the car park, replacement of blown brick cappings, fresh gravel and repaint of the handrail.

The first batch of 50 new chairs has been received and delivery of an additional 72 folding chairs with trolleys (which will be stored in the small side room) is due soon. The new chairs are vinyl covered to make cleaning easier and hopefully avoid the staining that the previous chairs suffered. Half the cost of the chairs was covered by a grant from the Calne Area Board for which the Trustees are most grateful. I am also delighted to say that Kerri Lynch and Maggie Moore found a new home for the old chairs which are now believed to be on their way to Ghana to start a new life.

Work on fundraising for the new village hall ground to a near halt when the pandemic hit. All of the grant giving organisations that we had been talking to, including National Lottery, switched their focus to helping organisations and communities impacted by Covid. There are some signs of a gradual return to funding other projects and we remain vigilant in identifying opportunities but we think it will be a long process. In the meantime some will be aware that Andrew Ainslie, whose family’s generosity in offering a piece of land in Park Lane kicked off the project, sold the farm, of which this was a part, earlier in the year. ‘Our’ field however was not included in the sale. Originally the arrangement was that Andrew would retain ownership of the land until the project was ready to

go ahead but now that the rest of the farm has been sold he has agreed to transfer the ownership now so that the land can be used for other community uses until funding for the build is obtained. Further discussion is required to agree the purposes that the land could be put to but they could include fetes, a site for a memorial copse (for which the Parish Council has been looking for some time), hire to community groups, etc. There are costs for acquiring the land which are affordable and there are further costs that will be needed to make the site useable in the short term such as improving the entrance, laying on water and electricity, etc. A budget needs to be calculated for these and funding will be sought to assist. Plans are still in their infancy but this will be an important asset for the village to make use of.

What the future will bring is still somewhat uncertain. Most of the user groups are desperate to get back to normal and the majority have already re-started but a few may decide not to return. It is anticipated that it will take some time for bookings to return to pre-pandemic levels, not helped by the extension of restrictions into July, but new enquiries are already being received and there is confidence that new users will come forward over time. In the meantime the charity's finances will continue to be managed prudently for the benefit of the community as the country slowly returns to normal.

Finally I must thank the team of Trustees who manage the hall on your behalf :-

- Alan Moore – Vice Chair
- David Cracknell – Treasurer
- Maggie Moore – Bookings
- Bob Deacon – Assistant Treasurer
- John Cavanagh – website and communications
- Nick White
- Nathan Bliss – hall heating
- Adrian Wright
- Dave Grafton
- Kerri Lynch
- Sharon Simmonds

Simon Tomlinson

Chair of Trustees

July 2021

Cherhill Village Hall Accounts – Summary

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Operating Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Receipts				
Donations and Grants	12,586	2,500	15,086	770
Hall Hire	4,767	-	4,767	9,583
Fund Raising	-	-	-	2,690
Other Trading Activities	1,703	5	1,708	1,674
Total Receipts	19,055	2,505	21,560	14,717
Payments				
Fund Raising	-	-	-	993
Hall Running Costs	8,312	-	8,312	6,495
Support Costs	1,401	88	1,489	2,285
New Assets	75	2,500	2,575	1,259
Key Deposit Refunds	35	-	35	-
Architects, Consultancy & Surveys	-	1,459	1,459	200
Bank Charges	-	60	60	60
Total Payments	9,823	4,107	13,931	11,292
Net of receipts/(payments)	9,232	(1,602)	7,629	3,425
Cash funds last year end	25,019	10,024	35,043	31,618
Cash funds this year end	34,251	8,421	42,672	35,043

New Assets

Chairs £2,575

Debtors £0

Creditors £0

Liabilities

Keys and Hall Hire Deposits £220

Cherhill Village Hall Accounts – Detail

For the period from 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

	Operating Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Receipts				
100 Club	765	-	765	750
Donations	20	-	20	20
Grants	11,801	2,500	14,301	-
Hall Hire	4,767	-	4,767	9,583
Auction	-	-	-	1,817
Solar Panel Feed in Tariff	1,703	-	1,703	1,674
Key and Hall Hire Deposits	-	-	-	-
Barn Dance	-	-	-	874
Other	-	5	5	-
Total Receipts	19,055	2,505	21,560	14,717
Payments				
Auction	-	-	-	993
Repairs & Maintenance	5,211	-	5,211	1,261
Water & Sewage	560	-	560	606
Heating Oil	436	-	436	1,832
Electricity	508	-	508	364
Waste Collection	208	-	208	276
Cleaning & Expenses	1,389	-	1,389	2,157
Insurance	614	-	614	597
Broadband/Wi-Fi	399	-	399	308
Licences and Subscriptions	207	-	207	485
Legal and Accountancy	-	-	-	-
Administration/Communication	118	88	206	652
Sundry Expenses	64	-	64	243
New Assets	75	2,500	2,575	1,259
Key Deposit Refunds	35	-	35	-
Surveys	-	-	-	-
Architect & Consultancy Fees	-	1,459	1,459	200
Bank Charges	-	60	60	60
Total Payments	9,823	4,107	13,931	11,292
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