

Orwell Village Hall Management Committee



At its meeting on 20 April the Committee agreed the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 2021/22. Both documents will be scheduled for discussion at the Committee's AGM on 19 May and a report on that meeting will be provided in the September Bulletin.

The past year has seen a slow recovery in bookings, although the hall is not yet in a position where it breaking even, post pandemic. Grants from central and local government have helped to keep village halls such as ours afloat, but there is no doubt that in the medium to long term we need to return to running the hall on at least a break-even basis.

This objective is not helped when the cost of utilities such as electricity and heating oil continues to increase at such a pace.

We have been pleased to welcome one or two new regular hirers, however a few have yet to return. For this and other reasons the Committee agreed that we need to redouble our efforts to market the hall. A great deal of effort and investment has gone into upgrading the facilities on offer and we are confident that anyone looking for a venue, whether for a one-off event, a regular club meeting or a business meeting would find it a welcoming and comfortable environment in which to meet.

The ongoing programme of upgrades saw the installation of a fire alarm system in late April and plans are in place to finish the refurbishment of the 'TOPS Room' (formerly just known as the 'back room') and the kitchen. We await a date from County Broadband for the installation of fibre broadband, but earlier problems with the current system appear to have been resolved and we are now in a position to offer broadband at the hall once again.

Behind the scenes, work continues to bring the governance of the hall further into line with statute, best practice and the hall's own Trust Deed. This might appear to have introduced some additional bureaucracy; however, the hall is a charity and the Trustees are fully aware of the duty upon us all to be accountable and transparent in terms of how the hall operates and monies are spent. On behalf of the Chairman, Vice-chairman and Treasurer, I should like to thank the Trustees who sit on the Committee for their continued engagement and support in the ongoing management of our wonderful village hall.

I'd like to end where I started. We have a wonderful meeting place in the heart of our wonderful village which is crying out to be better used. If you are considering running a club or society or holding a one-off event do visit our website at www.orwellvillagehall.com to see just what the hall has to offer.

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