

Orwell Village Hall Management Committee



At its January meeting the Committee continued its work on a number of current and planned projects at the hall.

A recent fire risk assessment has identified a number of areas for improvement. These will be addressed in order of importance and will include the installation of a fire alarm system. Quotes will be considered by the AGM in May, as will proposals to upgrade the kitchen and refurbish the committee room (to be re-branded the 'TOPS Room' in view of the generous donation from the Orwell Players mentioned in the December article).

We await County Broadband's installation of fibre broadband. At the end of January the company advised that for logistical reasons it would be at least three months before it could commence installation. This is disappointing, not least because the current arrangement is proving increasingly temperamental and the sooner it is replaced, the better. We will give updates via the village hall website, at committee meetings and of course in the Bulletin.

Progress is being made on reviewing the village hall's constitution. The move to the Charity Commission model discussed in the January Bulletin has been abandoned, as estimates for the legal work involved range between £8,000 and £12,000. Instead, we will overhaul the existing constitution (or trust deed), to bring it into line with current best practice. Again, a progress report will be brought to the AGM in May.

We have been delighted to welcome back many of our regular users in recent months and ad-hoc bookings have also started to increase. That said, we will continue to explore opportunities to better market the hall and we have signed up with informational websites such as <http://www.hallsforhire.org.uk/> to help spread the message. If you are thinking of joining one of the regular groups that use the hall or booking it for a one-off event, the village hall has its own website at www.orwellvillagehall.com where you should find all the information you need.

AND FINALLY....

As I type this the Prime Minister has just announced in Parliament that the Government hopes to lift all remaining Covid-19 restrictions on or around 24 February. By the time we read this we will know whether or not this actually happened. Whether it happens in February or a month or so later, it's clear the Government is increasingly making it the responsibility of individual citizens to take the safety measures that they see fit.

We will continue to reflect current regulations and guidance on our website and documentation; however our regular and occasional hirers will doubtless wish to take their own informed decisions as to any precautions they wish to take during their event.

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