

Orwell Village Hall Management Committee



At its meeting on 30 November 2023 the Committee agreed that as most significant upgrades and repairs had been completed, developments in 2024 should proceed at a somewhat slower pace. We will however look into replacing the ageing storage shed at the rear of the hall, although the costs and logistics are likely to be significant.

We will also take a look at the building's exterior. Externally, Orwell Village Hall looks more functional than beautiful, but it may be that a sprucing up, including re-painting, will help present the building in the best possible light. The Committee will be invited to consider these and other matters at its late spring meeting.

Also likely to be discussed are proposals being developed elsewhere for the recreation ground and in particular the pavilion. We are aware of discussions taking place over the future of the pavilion, including possible redevelopment leading to an expansion of its use.

Orwell is blessed with meeting facilities, such as the village hall, the Methodist school room, two community rooms and the pavilion. Each perhaps lends itself to different types of use, but it is important to understand how they can work together. In this spirit, we look forward to discussing with colleagues what they hope to achieve by redeveloping the pavilion and any possible impact on the use of the village hall.

On a less pleasant note, one or two recent hirers have left the hall in an unacceptable state. Where this has impacted the enjoyment of a subsequent hirer we can only apologise. We have a cleaner who looks after things very well, but we expect hirers to leave the hall in the condition in which they expect to find it when they arrive. The Committee will monitor the situation and may have to consider measures such as requiring the payment of a mandatory, returnable deposit against one-off hires. We hope this will not be necessary and that recent events were the exception rather than the rule.

One or two recent hirers have reported difficulties when using items of equipment at the hall. Committee members have been happy to help, but advice and guidance can often be found in the Familiarisation Book which is kept in the kitchen. (A copy can be downloaded from the website). We will continue to develop the book in the light of experience.

On the bookings and income front, the hall continues to at least break even on a month-to-month basis and with that in mind we are pleased to confirm there will be no increase to hire charges from April 2024.

For more information, including about how to hire the hall, visit the Orwell Village Hall website at www.orwellvillagehall.com

Andrew Pulham
Secretary, OVHMC