

Village Hall Management Committee Report to the Annual Parish Meeting

Evenley Village Hall is a charity. Our activities are prescribed by a Deed of Trust and the Charity Commission and must be for the benefit of the community.

The Parish Council is the Custodial Trustees of the village hall, holding it in trust on behalf of the residents of Evenley.

The Village Hall Management Committee is the Managing Trustee, acting with complete autonomy from the Parish Council and we have responsibility for the management, maintenance, presentation and administration of the Village Hall.

The Village Hall Management Committee is a body consisting of elected and representative members – 6 elected members are appointed each year at the VH AGM, and representative members are appointed by committee from the various user organisations of our village.

The current committee consists of nine charity trustees; Mike Boshier, Kirsty Burnham, Maddie Furnival, Chris Hart, Tony Stevens, Joyce Stevens, Karen Walker, Sue Waller and myself. I was appointed Chairman in October last year. The views of the Parochial Church Council, Evenley Residents Association, Evenley Cricket Club and The Gardening Society are represented by four of these committee members.

The committee, appointed in May last year, inherited a changed relationship with the custodial trustees following legal and regulatory advice. This resulted in the ongoing financial support for external building maintenance and insurance costs, which had been received in previous years from the Parish Council, being withdrawn.

We also inherited an ongoing problem of a leaking flat roof which required replacement at a cost of £3,300. Funding applications were made to support the cost of the new roof, to the District Council, Evenley Parish Council and Evenley Matters.

We received £999 from the District Council and £634 from Evenley Parish Council. Evenley Matters rejected our application. The remaining shortfall of £1700 came from the Village Hall reserves.

This change has made the Village Hall Management Committee take a much sharper focus on the village hall's finances and it was decided that we need a clear plan going forward.

One consequence of this was the expansion of the 100 club into a 200 member Village Hall Club – a change devised and promoted by Barrie Morgan prior to him

leaving the committee. We are now up to 167 members and still growing.

The committee's activities over the last 12 months have been dominated by housekeeping matters, such as revising Health and Safety procedures and documentation including the Health and Safety Policy, the Risk Assessment with supporting information sheets and introducing a COSHH policy

(control of hazardous substance). We have also commissioned an asbestos survey and legionella survey and now have policies and management plans for both.

The hall booking process has been updated to reflect the current arrangements, such as changes to health and safety documentation and integration with the Parish council web site.

A building condition survey commissioned by the Parish council at the start of 2016, which was prior to the relationship change, made a number of recommendations which has led to an increased maintenance program over the next three years with the possibility of having to replace the roof of the old school building.

The hall is reasonably well used in the week, but 25 Monday evenings and 25 Tuesday evenings remain free of regular bookings. Most Saturday and Sundays are available.

Events held in the hall, including regular club activities, are heavily dependent upon attendance by people living outside of the village.

Bookings can be made by contacting one of our two booking clerks – their details are on the parish website.

The remainder of the committee's time has been devoted to producing a five year plan, setting out the committee's vision for the future. This plan will be shared with village residents at our own AGM on 12th June, later this year.

Eric Millard

Chairman EVHMC