

Hacheston Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

12 May 2023 – 7.30pm

Report from Hacheston Village Hall (Registered Charity 304756)

For Year April 2022 – March 2023

1. Trustees and Personnel

There have been no changes to Trustees since those advised at the last AGM. Michael Dawe will stand down as a Trustee after the Village Hall AGM on 26.5.23.

The Booking Clerk and Cleaner / Caretaker have both been in position for the majority of the year creating welcomed stability in hall operations.

2. Meetings and Governance

The Trustees held four meetings in 22/23 in June, October, December, and March. At each meeting Health and Safety issues and financial performance were reviewed along with other current issues.

Changes to the entries for Trustees on the Charities Commission website were made during the year to reflect one Trustee who left and one who joined the charity. The annual return for 21/22 was made in December 2022.

With the help of two residents, a Safeguarding Policy was formulated and adopted in January 2023. As part of this adoption all Trustees signed the Charities Commission Declaration of Eligibility to be a Trustee. All regular hirers have either provided their own Safeguarding Policy or confirmed adherence to the Village Hall's Policy.

3. Health and Safety Activity

Following the annual third-party Playground inspection in October 2022, necessary minor remedial works were agreed and undertaken in January 2023. Routine monthly inspection of the playground equipment is undertaken by the Trustees.

4. Financial Position

With a full year of unrestricted operation, the hall has returned to profitability for the first time since 19/20. The viability of the hall is underpinned by regular hirers who ensure the hall is in use every day Monday – Friday. Adhoc hires for events etc have not recovered to pre-covid levels.

Hire Rates were reviewed for the first time in several years in September 2022 and a c.10% increase in rates implemented.

Although revenue levels have improved in 22/23, significant expenditure has been incurred in maintaining the hall and its equipment reflecting the increasing age of the facility. Hacheston Parish Council continues to support the maintenance of Fairfield Green for which the Trustees are grateful.

The long-term electricity and gas contracts that have benefitted the hall over the past year, come to an end over the next 12 months and will need to be replaced on the most favourable terms available.

It is also anticipated that in the next 12 months the water softener will have to be replaced and further repainting / refurbishment will be required externally.

The Trustees remain confident that the hall will be viable despite having to face these considerable challenges.

5. Leases with Hacheston United Charities

The land upon which both Fairfield Green and the hall are located is leased from Hacheston United Charities under two 99 year leases which expire in 2104. The Trustees are seeking to acquire either the freehold from Hacheston United Charities or extend the lease term.

6. CIL Funding

With the support of Hacheston Parish Council the pétanque piste was upgraded to improve access and all year use. The aim was to increase utilisation by all residents. The works consisted of a rabbit proof palisade fence and paving and was made possible through CIL funding.

In order to provide further amenity at the Village Hall the installation of an outdoor gym adjacent to the car park is being evaluated. It is proposed that this project will also utilise CIL funding.

7. Volunteers

Following an appeal for Volunteers at last year's Village Hall AGM, a group of residents met in September 2022 and formed a new Volunteers Group. Since that time this vibrant group of people have put on 6 successful events, including the Coronation Big Lunch and have 5 more planned for 2023. The Trustees thank these volunteers for reinvigorating resident events at the Village Hall.

Malcolm Robinson
Chairman of Trustees – Hacheston Village Hall

10 May 2023