

Aston on Clun Village Hall (reg charity no.702020)

Annual Report 2019

Aston on Clun Village Hall is governed by a lease and trust deed dated 3rd January 2003 and is registered charity no. 702020. The lease is given by, and the freehold is held by, Hopesay Parish Council. The lease has an original term of 50 years. The charity trustees are the members of the Management Committee who were (from 8th July 2019 to 8th July 2020)

David Jones	Elected at Annual General Meeting. Chairman from June 23 rd 2011
Jeff Else	Nominated by Aston on Clun Community Shop. Treasurer from June 23 rd 2011
Jude Bowers	Nominated by Hopesay Parish Council
Liz Tucker	Nominated by Hopesay Women's Institute
Judy Clarke	Nominated by the Parochial Church Council
Ray Heighway	Users Representative
John Henry	Elected at AGM (Secretary from July 2014)
Anthea Fell	Co-opted (resigned February 3 rd 2020)
John James	Nominated by The Whist Group
Chris Vaughan	Elected at Annual General Meeting
Paul Sweetland	Co-opted on March 25 th 2020

Replacement trustees are identified by the current incumbents who ask other residents for ideas. In the past advertisements have been placed in the Parish Magazine etc. but these have not been successful.

Objective

The objective of the charity is to provide and maintain (and if possible improve) the Village Hall for the benefit of the residents of the parish of Hopesay.

Progress and Achievements

Cash Reserves & Reserves Policy

At the start of the year cash balances stood at £35,038 and by December 31st these had increased to £39,752, excluding £2,136 which are donations specifically provided for improvement of disable facilities (£1,000 at year end 2018). The Trust has no liabilities other than its obligations under the lease. The Trustees have established a reserves policy as follows.

1. The Village Hall Trust needs to build and maintain an adequate level of reserves for the following purposes:
 - a) to meet the cost of repair, refurbishment and renewal of the existing Hall structure (including the grounds) and the fixtures and fittings therein;
 - b) to meet the cost of complying with changes in regulations;

c) to further develop the Hall and to consider extending it, to improve the heating system, and to improve disabled access to meet the needs of Parish residents, and other users

d) to act as a cash buffer in the event of a fall in the Hall's income, or in the event that a fund raising event does not cover its costs

The Trustees believe that the level of reserves in aggregate should be in the range of £30,000. In setting this number the Trustees have considered that the following work on the Hall will be required in the next few years:

- a) resurfacing the car park
- b) extending the Hall and providing an additional ground floor room
- c) refurbishment of the toilets
- d) providing disabled access to toilets
- e) replacing the curtains in the main hall
- f) replacing/repairing the video and projection equipment
- g) refurbishing the kitchen and replacing kitchen equipment
- h) improving the insulation and heating

The Trustees also took into account the risk of unforeseen significant expenditure on repairs to the utility services and the roof.

Maintenance, Repair and Additions

All of the Hall's portable electric equipment were PAT tested during the year.

As in 2018 some small potholes at the entrance to the car park and in the centre were repaired using Tarmac cold lay. Thanks are due to Mr. David Cole for his assistance with this.

The Hall contributed £66.34 to the cost of putting in a new gate at the track that leads down to the overspill car park.

The wiring for the Hall's audio/visual equipment was substantially rationalised and a new wooden floor installed under the cabinet. Thanks are due to Mr. Rob Loynes for his assistance with this. New operating procedures were written and agreed.

The Trustees continued to review alternative arrangements for heating the main hall bearing in mind both environmental concerns, operating costs and installation costs. The difficulty of establishing the operating costs for a variety of "green" solutions was particularly frustrating. This work continues into 2020.

The Trustees made arrangements for the entire electric system to be tested in 2020.

Village Shop & Occupational Licence

The Community Shop was placed on the edge of the Hall car park in March 2013 and opened for business in April 2013. Based on a surveyors valuation the Hall receives an

annual income from the Occupational Licence of £1,500. The Occupational Licence was renewed in December 2018 for a period of 2 years. The Hall also benefits from the sale of solar panel electricity to the Shop.

Management & Administration

Jeff Else and John Henry continued as Secretary & Treasurer respectively. David Jones continued as Chairman.

The Hall's hiring fees were unchanged. There were minor amendments to the Hall's documentation. The Hall's hiring documentation was reviewed by PCB Solicitors who suggested one particular amendment to the signature process but otherwise opined that the documentation was fit for purpose.

The Hall's website is stored on One.com. At the present time the Hall makes no use of social media. The cost of maintaining the new website is £131 per annum (excluding VAT).

Social Activity and Fund Raising

In order to provide social activity for the parish the Trustees arranged a number of events across the year.

A Christmas coach trip to Birmingham lost £188 net. As interest in this activity has declined the Trustees have decided to discontinue the activity.

The fortnightly coffee morning continues and attendance has been regular. While not intended to be a significant source of revenue this activity has more than covered its costs and there was a surplus of £230 at the year end.

The Hall continues to show current film releases via the Flicks programme of Arts Alive. As well as providing entertainment for residents these film nights raised a surplus of £320.

During 2019 the Hall continued to show theatre performances broadcast live from London. The net revenue to the Hall was £1,176. As a result of issues with NT Live performances raised in the previous report a more selective approach to booking NT Live has been adopted – however in 2019 the quality and entertainment value were considerably improved over 2018.

In November, the Hall, with the financial support of Arts Alive, put on a live show in the Hall – "Mountain Music". Most of the audience was arranged cabaret style and all tables were taken. As the majority of the seat revenue was taken by Arts Alive the Hall sustained a small loss (£18.00) but this was (i) probably offset by bar takings and (ii) considered acceptable against the benefit of bringing quality arts productions to the parish.

There is a monthly skittles night in the Hall organised by Barbara & John James. This has been a source of considerable enjoyment for residents and visitors. Funds raised

from this in 2019 were £284. As always thanks are due to Barbara and John for this and all the other work they do.

The Hall sells alcohol and other refreshments at events controlled by the Trustees. It is permitted to do this under its Premises Licence. Profit from this ancillary trading amounted to £199.

The Hall does not charge for two events which are for the overall benefit of the Parish – Arbor Day at the end of May and the Steam and Vintage day at the end of June. The opportunity cost to the Hall for this is £65 in aggregate.

Hiring

The Hall continues to be hired out on a regular basis for classes, exercise and social activities for local people and outsiders.

The following are regular bookings:

- Art class
- Tai Chi
- Yoga
- Pilates
- Dog training
- Line dancing
- Sewing work group
- Craft Classes
- Ballet
- Women's Institute and Other Ladies' Groups

In addition the Hall is used for one off events such as weddings and birthdays. The Trustees believe that the use of the Hall compares favourably to other halls in the area. The Hall's hiring charges are competitive – particularly during the summer when hirers do not need to pay for heating. The Hall trustees keep under review the balance between earning sufficient revenue to maintain the Hall and keeping the Hall free so that it can be booked by local residents.