

Village Hall Report 2021 (For the financial year to 31st December 2020)

Well to say the Village Hall activities have been somewhat disrupted this past year would be an understatement, however despite the Pandemic and the impact on normal service and the fact the Village Hall has been lying fallow over the past year it doesn't mean nothing has happened, far from it.

The committee have been active in response the varying Government directives and worked in conjunction with the various local authority bodies and associations to ensure that the Hall was always compliant with legislation and prepared for opening and use when directed

As such the Village Hall has undergone some changes over the past year, they include

- Redecoration of the main hall (£1910)
- Upgrading all of the lights and installing dimmer lighting (£1086 in 2019 & £648 in 2021)
- Creation of the Parish Council Office (approx. £2k paid by Longworth Parish Council)
- General Housekeeping
- New external notice board (Gifted) & Mail Box
- Installation of hand towel dispensers in the bathrooms (£99)
- Provision of automated hand sanitisers (£175)
- New Oil tank (£2382)

Currently under review and discussion is upgrading the audio-visual equipment to latest standards so that the film club and others who may use the hall will have ample facilities for showing films, steamed visual content, hold Zoom (or similar) meetings, with improved sound quality

We are about to install Yoga rings for the classes that are held in the hall, we are also looking to possible revamp the overall Hall structure to see how we can best make use of the existing space and with a sympathetic redesign see if we can provide a 'Hub' for a Village Pop Up Shop and/or Coffee shop or other uses

The financial state of the Village Hall is currently healthy, but we are aware of our need to continue to generate revenue from Hall users and encourage its' use and maintain its viability for the populace of Longworth Parish. In a normal year receipts would be expected to be in the region of £10k and payments can vary between £6k & £10k depending on activities repairs and developments. In the last year we have been lucky to receive a covid grant from Vale of White Horse district council (£10k) and a share of the Community Infrastructure Levy money (approx £2.5k) from Longworth Parish council. In addition to this Longworth Parish Council paid for the building work to create the compact Parish council office at the back of the hall. We have obviously still had some running costs - keeping the hall heated, insured, and secure etc, but these were reduced due to lack of bookings. The costs of developments and covid compliance in the year totalled just over £5k out of total costs of just over £9k. Almost all bookings were cancelled for 2020 (and fees returned where applicable), due to lockdowns and covid

restrictions and most groups have chosen not to restart their activities yet in the hall. We are very much hoping to welcome back the first of the classes from 17th May initially "subject to the rule of 6" increasing to "the halls covid secure capacity of 12" once this is permitted and then a full range of activities will be permitted from 21st June assuming the rules do not change. We have been saving up to enable development of the hall and we ended the year with a healthy bank balance of £28k which will pay for some of the development plans we have and sustain the hall for up to 2 years should bookings not recommence in any number.

The Hall is managed by volunteers and we always welcome input and help, if you feel you would like to contribute please contact us.