

Annual & Chairman's Report on Village Hall and Playing Fields 2017

Principle activities in pursuit of our objectives

The hall is available for hire by a variety of clubs and equally available for hire by local and district residents.

The hall is currently used regularly by two dog training clubs, fitness classes, a playgroup, the local school tuckshop and the Parish Council. In the past year, it has also been used as a polling station and hosted a number of social events.

The village hall and playing fields require maintenance like any other building and grassy areas and the trustees thanks go to Alan & Trevor Jones who spend many hours throughout the year looking after the playing field. Alan also looks after the interior of the hall.

Funding strategy and reserves policy

Our strategy is to maintain the revenue budget on a self-financing basis i.e. lettings and hires. Currently we have sufficient reserves for day to day expenses and it is our aim to maintain that status. The hall is also building a reserve fund for future capital projects.

Volunteer contributions, grants and fundraising

In the later part of the 2016, a group of Finmere residents approached Finmere Village Hall Management and Finmere Playing Field Committee seeking advice on refurbishing of the children's playground that was located in a far corner of the field... The residents formed a sub-committee and took on fund raising activities and grants applications with a view to re-locating the play area in a more suitable location adjacent to the hall. In brief the committee have been very active in raising funds and have additionally secured a grant derived from land fill taxes, via Grantscape. They raised sufficient funds to cover the CPT and a new play area was eventually installed during the summer of 2017. The sub-committee now continue to raise funds for the maintenance of the play area. A number of plans exist for general fund raising activities throughout the year

The Village Hall Management Committee continues to operate under an informal authority from the Parish Council. The committee believes that this arrangement represents an issue to should be resolved by the Parish Council as soon as possible.

Future plans

Our core activity is the delivery of a sustainable, safe and high quality community building for the use and benefit of the village. This is in line with our charitable objectives. We have been in a steady, sound and well established state throughout the past year and will continue to manage and run the hall, ensuring that we can meet the following priorities:

- The hall is properly and fully maintained.
- Running costs continue to be met.
- Build up reserves to cover future repairs and capital projects.
- Continue to have a strong and dedicated management committee that continuously reviews, updates and improves our management process.
- Monitor and react to the needs of users and the wider community.
- Promoting the hall for use by the local community.

Chairman
28/02/2017