

Monk Sherborne Village Hall

TRUSTEES REPORT

For the period ended 28th February 2019

Administrative details of the charity

This report is prepared for the Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO') named Monk Sherborne Village Hall. The charity is registered with the Charity Commissioners under number 1175663. The principal location from which the charity operates is the Village Hall, Salters Heath Road, Monk Sherborne RG26 5HR.

The Trustees serving at the date of this report are as follows:

Bill Hayter – Chairman
Kim Fleming
Cheryl McSoley
Rob Perkins
Kathy Wilson
Mike Wilson

The following also served as Trustees during the period:

Mandy Rusby – resigned 12th June 2018
Andrew Chappell – resigned 6th December 2018

Structure and governance

The constitution of the CIO was last amended on 27th October 2017 and approved by the Charity Commission on 9th November 2017. The document can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/y7tozn7n>.

The Trustees meet as often as required to conduct the business of the charity. In the twelve months to the date of this report, there were nine committee meetings held. The key constitutional provisions relating to the appointment and number of Trustees are:

Paragraph 9(3)(a) – sets the minimum number of Trustees at three.
Paragraphs 10(2)/(3) – define the process for Trustees to retire at Annual General Meetings
Paragraph 10(5) - allows for the co-option of new Trustees at any time.

Financial Review

The accounts of the charity continue to demonstrate a healthy accumulated surplus. The Trustees have agreed a reserves policy which states that the minimum balance to be held in a separate, interest bearing account should represent six months of operating costs (normalised to exclude one-off or unusual items) plus an additional contingency of £2,000.

In addition to these amounts any cash already received to fund the construction of the proposed new hall are held in the same account. The total of operating costs, contingency and cash raised for the new hall at 28th February 2019 comes to £11,616, which is comfortably exceeded by the cash in the deposit account of £14,104.

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the CIO is set out in paragraph 3 of the constitution which confirms this as:

“the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Monk Sherborne without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for: (a) meetings, lectures

and classes, and (b) other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.”

The activities of the charity are primarily hiring space to members of the public and organising community events. In carrying out these activities, the Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s public benefit guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/public-benefit-rules-for-charities>) where relevant.

Achievements and Chairman’s Report

The main priorities for the year have been to finalise the lease of the land with Pheasant Eye (Manydown), to complete the design of the new hall and to start applying for grants.

The lease, prepared by Jon Pender, is now signed and gives us a one hundred and twenty five year tenancy. There is a break clause after 25 years, which allows Pheasant Eye to take over the land. However, in that case they would have to find a suitable, alternative site for the hall within the village and to pay the cost of a replacement hall.

The design of the new hall, by our resident architect, Oliver Perceval, has gone well and has been well received by everyone. However, the grants have so far been disappointing, despite the huge amount of work that Mike Wilson has put into preparing the applications. I would like to thank all those villagers who responded to the questionnaire and supported the project. So far, the Village has raised just short of £60,000 from pledges, events and income from the Monk Sherborne lottery, which goes to show the great support there is for the project.

There are four main grants that we had hoped to receive sums from – the Greenham Trust, Basingstoke and Deane, Hampshire County and the National Lottery Community Fund. Of these, we are just outside the catchment area for the Greenham Trust and we have been ruled out by Basingstoke and Deane, at least for this round of grants, though we shall be applying again next year. Hampshire County and the National Lottery may yet grant us some funds but even so we have to assume that we will not receive as much as we had hoped and will therefore need to scale back our designs.

We are looking to see if we can use lower cost materials but the main savings will have to come from a reduced size, substantially smaller than the new design but hopefully a bit bigger than the current hall. This will mean that larger functions, such as weddings, may be ruled out but it will still be ideal for village functions and local classes.

Meanwhile the hall has continued to be regularly booked and my thanks to Tasha Chappell for doing the bookings so efficiently. We have had a number of events, including a picnic in May to celebrate Harry and Megan’s wedding, a dinner with dancing in November to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the First World War Armistice, with the dancing led by Mo and Kate Stoner, and in January a Disco with Les Farr as the DJ. They were all well attended and my thanks to all those who organised and helped at the events.

There have been no major costs for the upkeep of the hall, so the accounts, immaculately kept by Kathy Wilson as always, have shown a healthy profit.

Thanks again to all the Trustees, Mike and Kathy Wilson, Rob Perkins, Kim Fleming and Cheryl McSoley who have all worked hard to make this year a success. Incidentally we could do with some more Trustees, so if anyone is interested, please let me know, either before the AGM or on the night.

Bill Hayter

Chairman

22nd May 2019