

As with previous AGMs, this report relates to the work of the Village Hall committee and the activities within the Village Hall from the date of the last AGM up to today. During that time the committee has been very stable with Christine Renouf as chair, Graham Anderson as vice-chair, David Evans as treasurer, Joe Davis as minutes secretary and myself as secretary. Tina Moreland has been the rep for the TYP, Barbara Lowesmith has been the rep for the TAA and Neil Beresford has been on the committee without portfolio. In October we were very happy to welcome Chris Smith onto the committee. Chris and his family are very new into the village, Chris is a web site specialist.

Due to the extraordinary year we have just experienced the committee met 11 times once face-to-face and the remaining meetings were either by Skype or Zoom. We managed an 87.5% attendance which is 9.5 percentage points up on last year.

Coronavirus has almost completely dominated the year, we had a very healthy diary of bookings in January and February but then when the virus kicked in the normal uses of the hall virtually ceased. Fortunately for everyone involved with the project as a whole whilst the hall could not be hired out for its normal classes the coffee shop were allowed to extend into the hall making their business very attractive to others for several months, until the present lockdown.

During the year our long serving website i/c, Helen O'Brien, gave notice to quit as she was leaving the area. Right on cue Chris Smith arrived and with help from others, set about researching a new website which will probably incorporate the Hall Bookings system as well, this is a work in progress. We are very grateful to Helen for her significant help over the years. Whilst the building was under the first lockdown John Knifton and I carried out maintenance work in the main hall and at the same time we had a professional attend to the repainting of the front exterior. The new stage lights that we were discussing this time last year have been fitted but due to Covid they have not yet been used in anger. The main topic for most of the past year has been the planning and work to be carried out involving and integrating the now abandoned public toilets. Neil is heading up a capable team who are presently negotiating with architects regarding converting the space into storage space for the Village Hall and working and storage space for the coffee shop.

I will close my report by assuring all Hall users that whereas the committee are very happy for the coffee shop to use the main hall as well as the coffee shop area to keep their regular staff in work and to be running a very successful operation, we are all mindful that when coronavirus makes it possible, but not before, we will be looking to return the main hall area to its intended uses.

Steven Oldfield