

5. In terms of future improvements, the Chairman said that the Trustees had decided to initiate a project to overclad the main hall roof, not only to sustain its life and improve weather resistance, but to provide integral insulation that should make a significant difference to our heating energy bills. The cost was £25.7k which it is expected will be largely covered by an S106 allocation from the Lavendon Fields development. An application for the funding is currently with MKCC for determination.

6. Following a scoping review by Bev, and concerns about meeting rising energy and service costs, it was determined that our hall hire charges should be marginally increased without losing our competitive advantage. The Hall T&Cs have been revised accordingly to take effect from 1st January 2023.

7. The Chairman paid tribute to a number of Committee members including the contributions from the Treasurer and Secretary. He also thanked Bev Shaw who contributes greatly to securing our Hall bookings, and Eddie Adams for the good work he has done, and still is doing part-time, in looking after the condition and cleanliness of the Hall. The Chairman thanked Barry and Margaret Testro for their work in putting the Quizzes together and for looking after film show admin, etc. Finally, he thanked other Committee members for their general input to the management proceedings, as well as members of the community for their overall support given to the Hall.

Item 4 - Treasurer's Annual Report

8. Hard copies of the Treasurer's detailed annual report for the year ending 30 September 2022 were available for meeting attendees. Geoff Simmonds introduced his report by noting that for the first time in some 5 or more years, bookings income had exceeded outgoing costs for the year, thereby making the Hall self-sufficient. Geoff went on to highlight the following key points set out in his annual report:

Summary

Income for the year was £18,804 (Exhibit A) as a result of receiving £11,177 from bookings and £7,627 from fund raising and grants. Total cash in the bank increased from the previous year by 20% to £37,228. Cash reserves at the end of the year were increased to £9,000 to secure future expenses for general maintenance and upkeep of the Hall. The year has seen a significant increase in activity with bookings increasing to £11,176 a 300% increase on the previous year. Inevitably running costs increased as well to £8,089 but it still resulted in the Hall achieving a profit from its bookings of £3,088. This is the first time the Hall has been self-sufficient from bookings for over four years which is very encouraging.

Fundraising

2022 saw fundraising increase to £4,960 from £2,333 in the previous year. The main source of funds was from organised events as well as an Omricon grant of £2,667 from Milton Keynes Council and other Match Funding and Easyfundraising donations. The result was a total Project Diamond income of £7,627 for the year. The total investment cash available at the year-end was £28,228.

Project Diamond

We upgraded the Hall's entertainment system during the year as well as the main lights. Future plans include cladding the roof to reduce heat loss and help minimise

utility bills as well as further lighting improvements. This will be funded by a village development grant plus the Hall's own funds.

Users of the Village Hall

Bookings income for the Village Hall in 2022 was £11,176, 3 times more than the previous year. As shown in Appendix C, the mix of income has changed significantly. Two new dance and theatre groups have generated over £4,000 of income for the Hall. Both are out of village organisations, but it shows how attractive the Hall is to them. Village organisations account for around £5,000 of income including the Short Mat Bowling Club and Lavendon Old People's Committee. Most encouragingly, income from private users of the hall has also increased significantly from around £200 last year to over £2,400 this year. Their numbers have also increased from 14 last year to 45 this year. The trends are encouraging. Let us hope that they will continue in the same direction in the coming year.

9. Overall, it was evident from the Treasurer's report that the Hall was in a satisfactory financial position. The Chairman thanked Geoff for his AGM report and for his very comprehensive monthly reporting over the past year.

10. At this point some members of the public offered suggestions as to how, for example, attendance at the regular film shows might be increased, and generally how to achieve a greater entertainments profile. These suggestions included:

- Having film shows on a Saturday afternoon when there is more chance of children being able to attend family films.
- Putting posters and notices into the children's bags at school.
- Putting posters/notices on the new school noticeboard, or in school emails.
- Having a bar; having more comfortable seats.
- Putting an updating/news page in the Parish and/or Phonebox Magazines.
- Arranging transport for more senior or less able supporters.

Item 5 - Resignation of Current Committee

11. The Chairman said that at this point in the Agenda all Committee members were required under the 'constitution' to resign, and this they so did.

Item 6 – Permitted Committee Nominations from Village Organisations

12. The Secretary said that this Agenda item dealt with the nominations from those village organisations that are permitted by the 'Constitution' to provide a representative for the Committee. The Secretary then read out a list of nominations to the Committee, as follows:

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|---|--|
| The Lavendon Parish Council | Alex Mountcastle |
| The Parochial Church Council | John Lay |
| The Trustees of the Lavendon Union Chapel | Rev Richard Lake |
| The Royal British Legion (Lavendon Branch) | John Panter |
| The Lavendon Old People's Welfare Committee | Judith Slinn Jones Panter |
| The Rascals Bowls Club | Sally Emes |
| The Women's Institute | (disbanded) |
| The Lavendon School Governors | Rev Richard Lake – has previously offered to cover their interests |
| The Lavendon School Association | Rebecca Garratt |

13. The Secretary said that there were no Co-opted members of the Committee, although two are permitted. However, there were currently three vacancies for elected members, total six.

Item 7 - Election of Six Committee Members

14. The Chairman said that over the past year there were three elected members serving on the Committee and there remained another three vacancies for anyone interested. The following remained willing to continue serving as elected members: Geoff Simmonds, John Salter and Nigel Stickells. The Chairman then invited any other nominations, and Mick Rutherford proposed Michelle Corbett who was willing to be elected. Monica Chapman, a previous member of the Committee also put herself forward for election, as did Bev Shaw, our VH Booking Secretary.

15. The Nigel Stickells said that as a result of prior AGM publicity he had received an email request from Toby Stone who wished to serve on the Committee (but couldn't be at the AGM as he was abroad). Toby's email stated that he was the Manager at the Green Man PH in Lavendon and was familiar with arranging successful events, and that because of his late working hours he was also willing for people to drop off keys after late events and for example check up on things after parties, etc.

16. As there were four applicants for the three vacancies, Bev Shaw who is anyway already closely associated with the Committee and receives all relevant paperwork, indicated that she was willing to step back from formal election. The remaining three new candidates, together with the three existing elected members, were therefore proposed for election as a group: Proposed by Bev Shaw; Seconded by Helen Jones: the proposal was carried.

Item 8 - Public Question Time

17. *NYE Party*: The question was raised as to whether or not children would be allowed to the NYE party, and if so what age? In response, there was a view by some that the evening was unlikely to be suitable for younger age groups and that having young children running around may put off some adults from attending or enjoying the occasion. Children should at least be accompanied. The issue appeared to be where the age break should be, and it was agreed that the Chairman and Margaret Testro would discuss and decide the matter subsequently. It was also agreed that there should be tickets for the event and that money should be taken in advance, preferably via a bank transfer.

Item 9 - Any Other Business & Meeting Closure

18. There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the AGM, and the meeting closed at approx 8.30pm.

Issued by the Secretary: Nigel Stickells, email: nigel.stickells@btinternet.com, tel: 01234 712783

VH AGM Minutes - 28 Nov 2022