

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2020-2021

- This is a bit of an unusual report following a very peculiar year. There was no **AGM** last year as we had not yet got the hang of Zoom etc
- The last year has presented challenges and opportunities! We had to close with the first lockdown and so all activities were off. There was a problem with vermin which we sorted with the help of Craig Morris and his dog Monty. There has been no recurrence.
- However, we did manage to start regular meetings on Zoom and with the help of grants from TVBC we invested in sanitisers, extra bins, signs and so on to encourage social distancing and once the lockdown eased in July, we restarted regular coffee mornings which were very popular, even with limited numbers.
Table tennis returned in a Covid secure fashion (How I hope that expression goes away!)
Dennis Stephens and Terry Heffernan with the Houghton Support group organised a “goody” collection for staff at Winchester Hospital which was well received – Well done to them, a lot of work went into it!
All seemed well until the next wave and we have effectively been shut since November.
- **PROGRESS** The committee have nevertheless been busy, and we have updated all our policies and procedures (with input from ACRE and Kevin Sawyers)
The hall has been redecorated ; curtains cleaned etc.
There is a plan to get a skip and clear out some of the cage and under the stage. The WI have already had a sort out of their things!
- **COMMITTEE CHANGES** I should like to thank Bev Barker for all her help over the years with bookings and cleaning and we will have trouble replacing her! We will be recruiting a caretaker shortly and hope to introduce a booking system via the village website.
- Wi Fi has been installed
- **REFURBISHMENT** Plans continue for refurbishment- this year should be the decider!

- **ACTIVITIES** We are starting socially distanced yoga on Tuesday evenings, a keep fit class on Sunday mornings should start after rules are relaxed. Table Tennis will restart as soon as feasible, and we will be starting pickleball evenings soon.
- **SOCIAL** The hall will re-open for activities and hiring on 17th May. Some restrictions on mixing indoors will still apply. We are planning a “bring your own” picnic at the end of May- date probably 22nd May. This will allow a village “get-together” with the least restrictions and no worries over food prep etc. Coffee mornings will resume in June, and as always anyone can run these to raise money for a charity of their choice. I am hoping that with the improved appearance in the hall that it will again be a venue for private parties etc, and we would like to have some evening talks and events. Ideas to any of the committee!
- **SUMMARY** In spite of the troubles of the year we have managed to get some positives, grants have been helpful, and I hope the village will continue to support our efforts over the coming year.

Graham's minutes details Village Hall meeting 15.03.21

Treasurers Report GI confirmed as follows

Lloyds Bank as of 15.03.21

Current account	£3942.99
Deposit account	£24522.66
Friends (Draw) account	£11239.20

After the winnings for the next 10 months are deducted there will be a balance of £10500. We sold 129 tickets this year as there were a couple of late sales. In 2020 we sold 132 tickets.

We have received some more Covid grant money from Test Valley this month £2096 for February. We received a further £800.57 for Oct-Dec after applying for the grant as we were instructed to. This makes a total for this financial year of £20707.

I have managed to secure the services of Martin Bryars who is a qualified accountant and Treasurer for the HCBF to look over our annual accounts. This is necessary for claiming grants we have recently found. It also means our accounts are checked by an outside person which I have been trying to solve this problem for the last 3 years.

Other Costs

Oil delivery £408.62

Repairs £229.72 Paul Geary

Cleaning £130

Virgin Installation £60 Monthly charge £38.40 ongoing includes VAT

Radiator leak repair Waiting for invoice

Village Hall Committee AGM Minutes
Held by Zoom 26th April 7.30pm

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Introduction by Liz Sedgwick welcoming everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies for absence:** Trustees Daniel Busk, Nick Harding
3. **Attendees:** Liz Sedgwick(LS), Graham Inskip(GI), Alistair Dougall(AD) Parish Council, Jenny Hebburn(JH), Beryl Jones(BJ), Maureen Gilpin(MG), John Hurley(JH), Matt Hull(MH), Brian Stansfield(BS) Trustee, Rosie Cardoe (RC) on behalf of the refurbishment committee, Terry Heffernan on behalf of Houghton trail and various other members of the community.
4. **Approve minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting 15.03.21 were approved.
5. **Chairman's Report** –Liz Sedgwick. As per report attached.
6. **Treasurer's Report** -Graham Inskip. As per report and financial comparison separately circulated. These figures were presented to the meeting via zoom. There was some discussion about the Test Valley Grants explain why we had received them and how useful they have been during lockdown.
7. **Bookings and Cleaning:** It was confirmed by LS that we now had cleaners arranged but they were on hold until the decorators had finished their work. A discussion about bookings and how this would work focused around the Houghton Website and our Facebook page. GI and SG explained the technical problems of currently getting access to the website at the moment but this was in hand. A booking's manager/caretaker position needed to be filled because of Bev Barker's retirement from the position.
8. **Maintenance** - John Hurley- Nothing to report

9. **Houghton Trail** – Terry Heffernan explained that his committee had put back the event until May 8th 2022 due to the epidemic. The good news is very few people who had signed up asked for refunds. So the event looks in good shape.

10. **Refurbishment update** –Liz Sedgwick/Rosie Cardoe. The new plans are being circulated to groups in the Village prior to having a meeting with the Village in the summer. The costs for the full plans are £3500 and the quantity surveyor are £500. This will enable costings to be made from the full plans. The committee needs new members who will hopefully be recruited over the next few months

11. **Houghton Community Benefit Fund** - Graham Inskip. The Black Bee Project is being supported for its second year as planned. Things appear to be going well. The latest project is to support the CCTV project being overseen by the Parish Council. The HCBF website is now correct and anybody who has project can download an application form from there.