

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall

Registered Charity No 283279

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period 24 October 2016 to 23 October 2017

Aim and Purposes

Sampford Courtenay Village Hall was conveyed by a Deed dated 10 December 1952 by Devon County Council held upon trust for the purposes of physical and mental training and recreational and social moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms library lectures classes recreations and entertainments for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Sampford Courtenay and its immediate vicinity without distinction of sex or of political religious or other opinions.

Objectives and Activities

The Management Committee is charged with the maintenance and control of the Trust premises by means of fund-raising activities and income from the letting of the hall. Typical events during the year include monthly whist drives and bingo sessions, concerts, the annual dog show and car boot, the annual flower and produce show, quiz evenings, skittles matches and an open gardens day (the latter held jointly with the parochial church council). The hall is regularly let to the parish council for meetings, at which members of the parish can attend, and to private individuals for wedding receptions and parties.

A long-term objective is the improvement and extension of the hall facilities for the benefit and enjoyment of its users. Large projects have been funded from grants and the building-up of reserves: these include new chairs, improved space heating, heat-saving curtaining and, currently, the refurbishment of the kitchen and the committee room.

Achievements and Performance

The extension and refurbishment is now almost complete. The new kitchen is a vast improvement and offers much more to users of the hall than the old one did. The new entrance lobby and extended meeting room offers multiple uses (i.e. a meeting can be held in the extended meeting room whilst another activity is being held in the main hall).

The refurbishment hasn't been totally completed yet. This year we created a new soakaway to the rear of the hall and installed much needed heating into the extended committee room.

It is hoped to complete the car park together with disabled access to the new entrance in the new financial year.

We held our Grand Summer Ball this year. The main aim of this event was to show off to those attending the new extension. The event was well attended and the committee received positive feedback following the event.

Financial Review

The accounts have been audited.

We began the year with £3569.01.

The income from hiring was slightly down mainly due to two weddings being held last year. The income from the bingo has also reduced, which is not a huge surprise given the concerns expressed regarding the event mid-year, but it still brought in £718 over the year. Alterations have seen the income increase again over the last few months so this event will be monitored.

The big event this year was The Grand Summer Ball, which did bring in the highest receipts of any event. The overall profit on this event was not huge, but the main purpose of the Ball was to show off the village hall following the refurbishment.

With the bustle of the refurbishment coming to a conclusion donations and gift aid are less, but it is heartening to see regular events (produce show, quizzes, whist, dog show and skittles) still bringing in a good income. The Big Breakfast, a new event for this year, raised an excellent £328.

The majority of the refurbishment costs have been paid over the previous two years. However, the creation of a new soakaway to the rear of the hall and the installation of heaters in the enlarged meeting room were two big costs this year. We are grateful to the parish council who obtained grants for us, which covered most of the costs involved in installing the heating.

We have had discretionary relief previously, but this year we received a rates bill, which we have been paying by direct debit.

We have acquired a cleaner, who does two hours a month; this alongside members of the committee doing a clean each month has kept the hall looking tidier.

We received a loan from Mr. Squire in 2015 and we have been paying this off in instalments. As at the end of this financial year £1080 of the £3000 loan has been repaid.

We have made a surplus this year and end the year with £5637.04. There is still some work to carry out (i.e. the car park) so whilst the bank balance looks good it has not been considered an appropriate time to put funds in reserve in the fixed term deposit facility with Lloyds Bank.

Overall it has been a good year financially. Objectives have been achieved and we end the year with a healthy bank balance.

Plans for the Future

The trustees intend to continue to provide the usual activities for the benefit of the community. The new kitchen is spacious and well equipped and is expected to attract an increase in bookings for weddings and private parties. The committee room has been more than doubled in size and will enable us to offer a facility for audio-visual events.

The fabric of the premises requires regular maintenance but surplus income will be put into our fixed-term facility at the bank for further improvements.

Structure, governance and management

The structure, governance and management of the hall is detailed in the Constitution adopted at the AGM in December 2016

The Committee meets on the first Wednesday of every month.

Reference and administrative details

The current contact is Mrs Nicky Courage, Middletown Farmhouse, Sampford Courtenay, Okehampton, EX20 2SZ.

Email: nickyvcmc@gmail.com

The Charity's bank account is held at Lloyds Bank, Okehampton.

Approved by the Sampford Courtenay Village Hall Management Committee on

Date: 6th December 2017

Signed by Anthony Morris (Chairman of the Village Hall Committee)