

## EYNESHAM VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL 2023

The past year has seen activities at the Village Hall gradually return to normal following the huge effect Covid 19 had on the operations of the Hall. It was slow to begin with as some groups were understandably careful to ensure there would be no risks to their more elderly participants.

The main thing that has come to our attention this year is that the 'Lease and Declaration of Trust' between the Parish Council and the Trustees of the Eynsham Village Hall Management Committee (EVHMC) expires on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It is therefore likely that the 21 year life of the EVHMC will come to an end. Meetings between the Trustees and the Council are under way to explore how the transition will take place.

The financial year of the EVHMC runs from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July so the attached Income and Expenditure Account is for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022. This shows a small profit of £1,756.39 compared with a loss of £6,659.18 for the previous year which was seriously affected by Covid 19 in spite of two Government grants we received via WODC

However, we very luckily entered into a 3 year contract for our gas and electricity suppliers in 2021 which was prior to the energy price crisis and means our expenses for those services have remained much the same as previous years. Unfortunately though the energy bills in 2024 are likely to be significantly higher.

Our part-time employee Stephanie Norton has been the Bookings and Accounts Clerk for the past 5 years or so. She provides an excellent service juggling with all the bookings to avoid any clashes, and dealing with the income and expenditure. Our one other part-time employee is the caretaker, Dave Syphas, who left us for a year in 2021 then conveniently returned when his replacement had left to take up a full-time post elsewhere in May 2022

In 2020 Witney Radio asked if they could have permission to install an FM broadcast relay station at the Village Hall to help provide a wider and better service for their listeners. This was agreed with the PC and the Trustees and a new control box was installed in the large store room at the rear of the building together with an external antennae. After some initial teething problems this is now all working well.

The two large London Plane trees at the front of the Village Hall were significantly reduced by Bowards Tree Surgeons just before Christmas 2022. This will help resolve the loss of daylight to the neighbours opposite and reduce the bird droppings on their parked cars!

A Reinstatement Valuation was carried out in November 2022 for insurance purposes and more recently a Periodic Condition Survey has been carried out on the building internally and externally by local architects Taw Fitzwilliam. This will generate a significant range of maintenance work as the building is now almost 22 years old.

Finally, the Trustees are in the process of re-assessing the hire charges as most of them have not changed for more than 3 years and recent inflation means there is a powerful need to update them.

**Roy Wilkinson**

Chair of Eynsham Village Hall Management Committee

03.03.23