

## Eynsham Village Hall Report 2020/21

The past year has been a very difficult one for the Village Hall largely because we rely almost entirely on group activities which have not been permitted to take place since the pandemic became a serious problem in April last year. Consequently many of our overheads and other expenses have continued with virtually no income to offset the inevitable losses.

We were very relieved to receive an early Government grant of £10,000 in April which we assumed would see us through the problems ahead but the length of the pandemic has now overtaken us. The Village Hall has had to remain closed for most of the time except for two of our regular groups and one new group which were able to use the Hall when Government rules were relaxed for short periods. Most of our regular groups (about 16 in all) did not wish to take any risks even if guidance would allow it. And to make matters worse the Short Mat Bowls Club disbanded in September due to lack of members.

A lot of effort was put in at the beginning of the pandemic to ensure the building could be used safely with one way routes in and out of the building, hand sanitisers at entrance and exit points, a wide range of notices and signs, instructions to the users to record contact details of all attendees, and to ensure the mechanical ventilation in the main hall was turned on to provide a cross-flow of fresh air. A strict cleaning/disinfectant regime was also applied between each session.

We managed to keep the caretaker employed for the first month or two by taking advantage of the unused building to carry out some backlog maintenance, but he has now been laid off completely for several months except when needed for cleaning between the occasional sessions.

Also the booking/accounts clerk has been working at a reduced rate but the accounts still needed quite a lot of attention.

Our financial year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> July so the attached Income & Expenditure Account is for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (i.e. 4 months into the pandemic). It shows how seriously our finances were already being affected in spite of the £10,000 grant as it meant we showed a profit at the end of July of £1,704. This would have been an £8,296 loss had it not been for the grant.

Since the end of July 2020 another 7 months have passed with very little income whereas ongoing expenses and overheads have continued at quite a high rate leading to a current situation of Village Hall assets in the bank reducing to approximately £7,000. We have applied to WODC for another Government grant but are currently waiting for a response.

Roy Wilkinson 02.03.21