

Dennington Village Hall

Report for Dennington Annual Parish Meeting , 17/5/21

Following the events of past 12 months the committee has been focused on keeping the Hall in best possible shape ready for re-opening and a sense of normality to return. The Hall has been regularly cleaned with a number of caretaking activities being undertaken to ensure the Hall is safe and secure. Risk assessments have been completed, buildings maintained, bar stock removed and a general all round tidy up has been in hand. To those members of the committee, along with additional personnel we are most grateful for your efforts. The Hall is ready to re-open and welcome the public back to use this wonderful space.

Financial Position

Following the initial lockdown grant awarded in early 2020, further grants have been awarded as detailed below:

December 2020	Local Restrictions Support Grant	£2,344
December 2020	Closed Business Lockdown Payment	£4,000
May 2020	COVID19 Restart Grant	£8,000

At present these funds have not been utilized but put us in a strong position financially to move forward – possibly the healthiest our bank balance has ever been. During the next Trustees meeting we will be discussing how to best use these funds for the benefit of the Hall and the community.

A full copy of the financial report will be made available from the Treasurer.

Hall Bookings and Web site

The Committee is delighted that the regular clubs have continued with their bookings. We appreciate their ongoing support. Recently, a new weekly booking has been secured with Slimming World – this is for the foreseeable future. Enquiries are being made for hire of the Hall – with an element of caution during these uncertain times.

The launch of the new web site has offered a refresh and re-launch of the Hall in a more user friendly and easier to navigate manner. James Maberly and Jo Denton deserve thanks for their efforts in seeing this through to such a positive outcome. In addition thanks to Vashti Mouncer for the energy she displays in her role as Hall Bookings Manager. Vashti receives all the enquiries from the web site and liaises directly with those to ensure the bookings run smoothly.

Village Events

During 2020 there were no significant community events held at the Hall. The Trustees are delighted that the village will be holding a Fete on July 17th 2021. This represents a chance for the village and wider community to get together once more. This is being co-ordinated by Vashti Mouncer, with each area of the Village Hall from Horticultural Club to WI taking part.

Curtains

The Hall is now displaying new curtains which allow for privacy for events taking place as well as providing a more welcoming and warming atmosphere. The blinds for the kitchen area will shortly be completed.

Chair-pads

Unfortunately there has been a number of delays with the shipment of the chair-pads. These are desperately needed to replace and repair many of the damaged chairs. With lockdown, factory closure, port blockades and Brexit no confirmed date has been given. This is being followed up as a matter of urgency. With current bookings an availability of the Hall the committee will be undertaking this project in early Autumn.

Moving forward

The committee continues to work tirelessly behind the scenes to adapt and cope with all that has come our way during these past 15 months – for that I am most grateful to know that we have such a committed group of volunteers. It has not been the easiest time to take on the new role of Chair but my thanks to James Maberly for all his endeavours and I look forward to a more sociable 2021 enabling me to take a more active role within the Dennington Community.

Joanne Cartwright

Chair of Trustees