

Badingham Village Hall
Low Street, Badingham, Suffolk IP13 8JS
Registered Charity no. 304703

Badingham Village Hall Management Committee - Report for Annual Parish Meeting

I am pleased to provide this report on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee.

At the Village Hall AGM in June 2017, a new committee was elected and since then we have worked hard to manage the Village Hall charity on a day to day basis. The Parish Council owns the Village Hall but we, the Village Hall Management Committee, accept and share a collective responsibility to act for the good of the charity and for the benefit of ALL the residents of Badingham and not for any particular age or user group. In doing this we are mindful of the original 1951 Conveyance and its Schedules outlining a constitution which we continue to uphold in its conception, in its principle and delivery.

All the Badingham Village Hall Management Committee members, with the exception of the newest member (representing Badingham Playschool), are long term residents of Badingham. As residents of Badingham we have all made a personal investment and commitment in terms of giving up time and directing our energies towards starting to make the village hall a more open and accessible place for different types of adult or young people's activities as well as pre school. I would emphasise that this is a beginning, and as with all starting points, it is not without difficulties and some tough decisions have had to be made.

We acknowledge that in adopting a more business like approach, we should not be reliant on a single source of income but that we should be meeting a wide variety of needs and therefore attracting wider sources of income. The Hall is currently used by a small number of regular users, the Committee want to expand this so that an increased number of activities can be offered to a wider cross section of people. Table tennis and the the new Kurling Club is going well and the Hall has been used for a variety of private functions but again the Committee want to increase bookings at weekends and at other times. We are pleased that Badingham Playschool continues to use the Hall.

During the past few months, the Committee conducted a review of our own Village Hall and also research with other village halls and pre-school establishments; this has proved to be a worthwhile and useful exercise. We revised and reissued the Terms and Conditions and allocated storage space to regular users so that the limited storage space available could be best used. Governance and Operating Procedures have also been written to support the Constitution and to make it clearer to everyone just how the Village Hall operates. The Committee are now in the process of reviewing our funding and reserve strategy.

There have been resignations during the past few months and we, the Committee, were sorry to lose Sam Donovan, who had served on the Committee for several years as Treasurer. Sam gave up a great deal of time to support the Village Hall and the Committee are grateful for her contribution. Joyce Probart is in now in place as Treasurer and it is reassuring to know that financial matters are now in Joyce's very capable hands. Debbie continues to be our booking secretary and Suzie picks up numerous other things; Matt Lunn is our new member.

The situation now is much different to that which the Committee inherited although I have to acknowledge that challenges do remain. Changes do need to be made now and again which unfortunately does sometimes meet with resistance. However the Committee does look to the future in a positive light; we have much to do and I am personally so grateful to the Committee, to the Parish Council and especially to residents for all they are doing to support Badingham Village Hall.

Shirley Osborne

31st May 2018