

Berrick & Roke Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)

Chairman's Annual Review 2017-18

The major hall renovations we started in 2014 are now complete ie new roof, double-glazed windows and remedial wall timbers, cladding and insulation. Some small projects like cupboards are still underway to improve usage of space and safety.

The financial situation is healthy with £8,416 on account at present, despite the fact that no regular hiring fees have been received from Wallingford Bridge Club (WBC) since May 2014 as the advances made to help with the renovations are paid off. WBC continues to pay for extras outside the hiring agreement like county bridge tournaments as well as all the cost of heating and cleaning. It will take just over two more years to pay off the remaining advances made by WBC and our treasurer Jonathan Parkinson is confident we shall be able to stay in funds for this period. Hirings by other local hall users generates helpful additional income, with bookings managed by Julie Bird for the last couple of years.

A proposal by WBC to extend the hall towards the playground to provide a storeroom, teaching area and second front door for easier access to the rear room met with some adverse comment from local residents and has been shelved. The priority at the moment is to reinforce ground in the overflow car park, which became unusable last winter and raised safety concerns as well as causing serious parking problems. WBC is prepared to completely fund this and we are currently in dialogue with SODC to see what might be permitted. The object of this is purely to allow year-round use of the overflow in safety, not to increase the number of cars using the hall.

The constitution of the VHMC as a registered charity was drawn up in 1980 and needs updating to reflect the current situation. Also, we are down to just two trustees, Jonathan Parkinson and myself (if anyone might be interested please contact me). However, the VHMC has asked the Parish Council to consider whether this might be an opportune time to take over direct operation of the hall (perhaps with a management sub-committee), and, if so, the VHMC will liaise with the Charity Commission to see what measures are needed to dissolve itself. If the parish council decides there are benefits to maintaining the current operating structure then the VHMC will get legal advice to update the constitution.

In addition to myself, the VHMC currently comprises Jonathan Parkinson, Ian Glyn, David Langston and Andy Pomeroy as well as Colin Jones, who is also Chairman of Wallingford Bridge Club. If the committee continues to function in its present form these members have indicated that they are agreeable to be re-elected and if there are no objections can we have a proposer and seconder to do this collectively.

Thank you

John Bird