

Chairman's Report for 2010/11

Our activity as a managing committee must be viewed against the objectives stated in the 1960 Trust Deed:

To provide a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of Tiverton and neighbourhood, particularly for

- Meetings
- Lectures and Classes
- Other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving their conditions of life.

Any income that the management committee raises is used in the following order of priority, as required by the Trust Deed:

1. Expenses of administration
2. Hall maintenance, upkeep insurance and other operating expenses
3. Furthering the objectives of the Trust Deed

Any money not needed for working purposes will be treated as capital and invested.

These objectives are delivered through a management committee which has maintenance and good appearance of the Hall as its priority. Where necessary, the committee promotes and organises events to raise funds for maintenance of the Hall.

To this end, the following activity was promoted by the committee in 2010/11:

- The Kitchen Sub-Committee has somewhat stalled since the departure of Derek Salmon. Obtaining quotations from builders interested in this sort of smallish, very mixed trade work is proving difficult and time consuming. The committee may have to accept that its present composition does not provide the resource to manage such a project, and may have to settle for a simpler kitchen refit.
- The Committee approved expenditure on modernising the lighting with the energy saving T5 fluorescent tubes as well as a re-inspection of the electrical system has not progressed, again due to lack of effective management resource.
- Regular committee meetings were held through the year, approximately every 3 months.

The Drop In Coffee Morning continues to run on a monthly basis with steady, but low, attendance, despite regular publicity through the PC Newsletter and web site.

Income from hire of the hall at £2928 has remained at the same levels as last year, with casual hire holding up at £230. Energy costs at almost £900 for the year do not seem to reflect the benefits from the improved loft insulation. This might be due to user requests to pre heat the hall throughout the year where meetings are held on a weekly basis, and the controls can be programmed to offer this benefit.

Along with energy, the cost of cleaning at £845 dominates the hall expenditure league table, but MollyMop continue to provide an effective and reliable service.

The excellent posted surplus on the year of £775 results in part from the very low levels of maintenance and improvement work on the hall. Whilst this is not a problem in the short term, the hall fabric will suffer longer term if this sort of work continues to be deferred. The contribution from interest on deposits (£154) has reduced yet again, despite the fact that our deposit balance has risen slightly. We are expecting that the plunge in interest rates has now bottomed, though inflation is now a significant factor working to erode our current healthy balance sheet.

To summarise, 2010/11 has been about trying to contain costs and juggle the many aspects of managing what is essentially a small business, with inadequate management resources. However, we do seem to be able to continue to attract long term users and the cash flow indicates that our low and attractive hire rates can be maintained for yet another year.

S A Armitage
Chairman