

Chairman's Report for 2011/12

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 2011/12:

- The Kitchen Refurbishment Project has been re-invigorated with the arrival of George Molyneux as a volunteer project manager. With support and encouragement from the Parish Council, the project scope has been enlarged to include the remaining energy saving recommendations from our Dec 2009 Energy Audit. This has almost doubled the project total but includes work that has to be done in the near future if not included in this expanded project. A lot of effort has gone into preparing a bid for WREN funding of £25,795 towards the total project cost of £30,224. The paperwork was submitted in October 2012 but a decision will not be announced until end Feb 2013.
- Continued programme of maintenance inspections by external contractors: Electrical Safety, Portable Appliances, Fire Extinguishers, and internal inspections eg Emergency Lighting to satisfy requirements of licensing authorities and our insurers.
- Regular committee meetings were held through the year, approximately every 4 months.

The Committee is the poorer for the death of Bill Povall in June 2011 after a short illness, a very long standing committee member who contributed quietly and effectively over many years.

The Drop In Coffee Morning continues to run on a monthly basis with steady attendance and makes a modest contribution to Hall funds (£44).

Income from hire of the hall at £2762 has remained around the same as last year, though casual hire has dropped to £130. Energy costs at almost £935 for the year are in line with last year's figures; any savings from the loft insulation have been swallowed up in higher fuel costs and the continued pre-heating of the hall for selected users.

Along with energy, the cost of cleaning at £820 dominates the hall expenditure league table, but MollyMop continue to provide an effective and reliable service.

The comfortable posted surplus on the year of £452 results in part from the continued low levels of maintenance and improvement work on the hall, pending the kitchen refurbishment project.

Electrical work at £193 was mostly the cost of the 5 yearly Electrical Safety Inspection (£150) as well as the high cost of replacing our failed, obsolete T8 strip light tubes.

The contribution from interest on deposits (£150) now seems to have stabilised as the fall in national savings rates appears to have bottomed out.

Our very healthy balance sheet has enabled the committee to commit £6,437 to the kitchen refurbishment project and still meet our Reserves Policy commitment which would require a balance of £6500 after the project has been completed.

The Committee continues with its policy of not undertaking an external audit of its accounts as the turnover is well below the £25,000 threshold at which the Charities Commission requires independent examination of the accounts (CC31).

To summarise, 2011/12 has been about controlling costs and juggling 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 (£5/hour with a minimum of £15 during the week) can be maintained for yet another year.

S A Armitage
Chairman