

Chairman's Report for 2013/14

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 the good appearance of the Hall as its priorities. 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 2013/14:

- Managing an on-going programme of maintenance inspections to satisfy the requirements of licensing authorities and our insurers, for instance the annual Fire Extinguisher Inspection and monthly Emergency Lighting checks.
- Regular committee meetings were held through the year, approximately every 4 months.

We continue to find it very difficult to attract new committee members who will play a full part in the management of the village hall, so the current committee has to work that bit harder to manage the hall in way our users have come to expect. We currently have vacancies for 3 committee members (out of a total committee membership of 10)

Income from hire of the hall at £2,616 has rebounded from its low levels (£1,986) of the last year when we had to close for the refurbishment work. The Parish Council annual donation of £100 towards operating costs was not made this year, though we have benefitted from some rental income from the Neighbourhood Plan discussions.

New users are coming forward and we are expecting to have more long term users in the year ahead as the excellent value of the hall for smaller groups is more widely appreciated. Rental charges have been held yet again, subject to a small rise in the minimum hire charge which now stands at £20 for a weekday evening for casual users.

Energy costs appear to be very modest as the improvements to insulation and boiler efficiency are now starting to show through. We have not had to re-order heating oil in this 12 month period, despite continuing to preheat the hall for selected users. Even with this low energy bill, the

committee is actively pursuing alternative electricity suppliers to minimise costs wherever possible.

The cost of cleaning at £882 dominates the hall expenditure, though there is an element of overcharge (around £75) which needs to be sorted out with MollyMop.

The Drop-In Coffee Morning continues to run on a monthly basis with steady attendance and makes a modest contribution to Hall funds (£42).

The contribution from interest on deposits (£107) continues to fall in line with national interest rates.

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

To summarise, 2013/14 has been about maintaining the hall in the good condition following the efforts of the refurbishment programme, and giving our hard-working committee a bit of a breathing space after the intensive workload of the last two years.

Continuing to control costs will ensure that we are able to offer the hall at a very competitive rates to new users.

S A Armitage
Chairman