

## Chairman's Report for 2016/17

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.

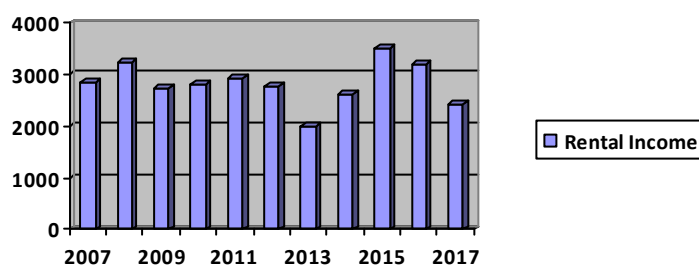
To this end, the following activity was promoted by the committee in 2016/17:

- 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, monthly Emergency Lighting checks and the Periodic Electrical Inspection.
- In the absence of any project work, we have held 3 committee meetings during the year, including an AGM.

We continue to find it 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 a vacancy for a committee member (out of a total committee membership of 10)

On a positive note, our rather gloomy prognostication of barely break even for this financial year has fortunately not materialised and the year ended with an overall profit of £217.

Income from hire of the hall at £2,432 continues the declining trend noted in last year's report and is significantly down on last year (£3,199). Unfortunately another long term user (Line Dancing)



has ceased in the year. Casual hire at £335 has also reduced from last year's high of £488.

We continue to believe our policy of offering up to date facilities at a modest rental (subject to a £20 minimum charge) is the right way to present ourselves.

The cost of cleaning at £756 dominates the hall expenditure as usual. The expenditure on gardening has been carefully controlled during the year to £165, supplemented by volunteer efforts. Our efforts in improving heating efficiency are paying off as there was no need to buy heating oil during the year, though it will be a big-ticket item in the next financial year.

The contribution from interest on deposits £20 (down from £127) is in line with national interest rates. Our Premium business account at Barclays has recently announced a cessation of interest payments on deposits, so this declining contribution will not be present next year, a further blow to our income stream.

Looking forward, the high cost of the one-off Electrical Inspection and remedial work (£535) will more than offset the cost of oil next year. The kitchen drain is giving us problems at the moment, with an expensive repair in prospect, but we still have savings to cover these one-off costs, should our income fall still further next year as seems likely. The loss of Line Dancing wipes out our modest profit of this year, so again we are looking to break even at best next year.

With substantial funds to back us, we could continue at our present hire charge rates with close monitoring of the financial situation. Raising rental charges will be a key committee decision at the forthcoming AGM.

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, 2016/17 has been about maintaining the hall in good condition, against a declining trend in income stream despite efforts to attract more users. Continuing to vigorously control costs will ensure that we are able to offer the hall at a very competitive rate to new users.

S A Armitage Chairman