Hoxne village Hall

**Report to Annual Parish Meeting – March 2019**

The hall remains in high demand and we already have six weddings booked for this year and having to turn away some events. There are limits to our manpower and we cannot always provide a bar. So for example we will have a dry film in July, because it is impractical to put on a bar due to other demands on the resources.

This not a complaint - This is of course good news!

Our accounting year runs to 28th of February. We ran a deficit of about £7500 last year but expect to get back a grant for improvements of about £4500, so the actual deficit is about £3000. This is broadly planned because we maintain a reserve of about £30,000 for emergencies and aim to broadly balance our books as far as current expenditure is concerned. Essentially our bookings income covers our expenses and we use the surplus from the bar to make improvements. Our operating account has roughly £9000 fluctuating during the year but aim is to keep it broadly stable.

Most of our users are regular, by which I mean the clubs and classes. So of the 353 bookings last year 297 were regular bookings with 56 one-off events. Regular bookings have tailed off in the last couple of years (particularly from a high point in 2017), but as you can see they are by far the majority and the number is currently stable.

The Committee has quite a lot of work on the hall in the last year. We replaced the noticeboards outside, have sought to improve the sound system with outside support and have been working to enhance the bar facilities. With the aid of the grant, already mentioned, we have installed or will install new hand dryers and more effective LED lighting in the hall. We had a bit of a scare a few months ago when we thought we might have dry rot in the roof, which fortunately turned out to be fault alarm. Nevertheless, we did get the roof cleaned and took the opportunity of replacing the asbestos guttering with PVC. Very recently, we had some painting done to touch-up the hall.

As I have mentioned before, we have big heating problem. The hall can be very cold in the depths of winter because so much heat is lost out of the roof. Unfortunately, it remains the position that we do not have a satisfactory solution because any decent installation would require significantly changing the character of the hall. So I think for the time being we are planning to remain stylish but in winter coats for January and February!

We are working on improving the garden behind the hall. So at the very least will be putting in some fencing up in the near future.

We have course continue to operate the film night and we also sponsor the harvest breakfast.

We continue to develop our policies, so for example we have recently adopted a new safeguarding policy for children and vulnerable adults.

Finally I would like to say I think we are very lucky to have a pretty dedicated and enthusiastic committee which certainly helps to keep the hall ticking over in the way that it does.

Anyway, are there any questions?