**STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2022**

**HAYTONS BENT**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Report of the Activities of the Committee 2021-2022
4. Treasurers Report
5. Committee membership
6. AOB

**STANTON LACY VILLAGE HALL**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2022**

**HAYTONS BENT**

**COVID CONTEXT**

This meeting and report cover the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

The Village Hall was closed until the 29th May 2021 due to Covid restrictions and then operated on an infection control basis through much of the summer and during the period of the spread of the Omicron Covid variant. During the closure the hall was checked weekly, taps run and toilets flushed to ensure that facilities remained operational and to secure the hall insurance policy.

The Village Hall has provided anti-viral hand cleansing, advised the wearing of masks and has signposted social distancing in accordance with Government guideline.

**ACTIVITIES**

After the hall opened the regular cycle of Parish Council meetings, WI meetings, community market, Wednesday social nights and skittles evenings re-commenced over the following months. A local band also started to use the hall for practise sessions in exchange for two performances per year.

The hall hosted the showing of the Euro football championship in the summer, which proved lucrative to the hall as the national team progressed to the final, and the 6 Nations rugby in the winter, which wasn’t quite so lucrative.

A programme of one-off events provided at least one highlight in each month. This commenced with an opening up event at the first Community Market of the year at the end of May. Through the summer there was a pizza night, charity skittles night and summer dance. Into autumn we thanked the key workers of the parish at a ceilidh, hosted a chilli night and a further pizza night. As we approached Xmas the hall held a Xmas disco and children’s party, the annual carol concert and finished the year with a New Year party. During the first quarter of 2022 a quiz evening and a bingo evening completed the year’s programme. Through the year there were also a number of private bookings. In all, the hall saw the full spectrum of the parish population with a good number of successful events.

**FINANCES**

The financial year 2021-2022 shows a total income for the hall of £36,366 of which the largest contributor is grant income of £25,667. The remaining income, being £10,699, reflects underlying normal activity from events, donations and hall bookings and is of a similar scale to previous years, in spite of the reduced opening. Total expenditure of £14,854 includes £1,815 of small capital and a similar level of one-offs such as planning applications and cooker fitting. This leaves a net surplus for the year of £21,512 within which was an underlying operation of near break-even.

Within the grant income we have continued to maximise the level of Covid-19 support from the Government, receiving £10,667 from this source. The hall has been able to secure these monies through Shropshire County Council as it is Rates Registered (although zero rated). In addition, the hall has received a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund and £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and a promise of £5,000 from the Bernard Sunley Foundation will be paid once building works start (not included in the bank balance), all towards the first phase of the extension. The consequence of this activity is that the bank balances at the end of March 2022 totalled £61,020 (an increase of £21,512 over the year).

Whilst outside the financial year, it is worth noting that since the financial year end the hall has also secured a grant of £5,000 from the Shropshire Council Recover and Grow Grant towards the minor capital improvements of the hall (such as replacing the doors) and £2,400 from the Arts Council as the charitable agent for the arts activities of the Queens’s Jubilee across the parish.

With such a healthy bank balance the Committee has decided that it can now progress the first phase of the extension (with an estimated cost of £51,500 incl. VAT) whilst still holding a reserve of £6,000, operating cash of £2,000 and have some funds for any potential over-run of the extension. The small capital programme is now met from the grant mentioned above.

As income has exceeded £25,000 during the year, an Independent Examiner will be appointed to ratify the accounts.

**MINOR CAPITAL INVESTMENTS**

With the financial stability provided by the Covid grants we were able to acquire and improve a number of small facilities for the hall. This included:

* A new wine cooler for the bar
* Disco lights and an upgrade to the sound system
* A BBQ and outdoor heater
* A new CCTV system
* Installation of Sumup to allow card payments

Whilst not a capital spend, we have also commenced an overhaul of the website.

**MAJOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

At the 2021 AGM the Committee presented, and the attendees supported, a first phase of work for the hall extension, to deliver a ladies toilet block thereby freeing up storage space for subsequent extension of the kitchen. The planning request for this phase has been secured through the past year and progress is now being made to detailed design, building control submission and then building quotations. As described earlier, we were also successful in securing sufficient funding towards the build allowing it to proceed.

A major challenge may prove to be the inflationary impact on building costs. There are a number of mitigations, for the hall, in the original estimate of £51,500 and actions that can be taken:

* The estimate was based on a QS assumption of £2,200/m2 which, with local trades quoting for specific elements (through Paul Steventon) may prove to be cautious.
* Thanks to John Bryan and Paul Steventon, who are providing their input for free, the professional services costs will be low
* The estimate carries contingencies of £9,000 (incl. VAT)
* As mentioned above SLVH funds could support a higher level of investment if required
* Ultimately, the scale of the project could be scaled back a little, by not including fit-out initially, and then putting a further grant application to the Bernard Sunley Foundation and the Garfield Weston Foundation, both of whom granted 50% of the funds requested.

**GOVERNANCE**

At the 2021 AGM it was reported that a request to the Charity Commission to allow payment of services to Trustees and Spouses was not allowed. Recently, the passing of the Charities Act 2022, in February, now allows such payment for goods and services as long as appropriate due diligence is followed. It would be nice to think that our request contributed, in a small way, to this sensible change.

During the period of this report the following have been Trustees:

Alan Gatehouse from 24th November

Bill James from 24th November

Mervyn Jones - Chair

Phil Jones nominated by Stanton Lacy Parish Council

Phil Keene nominated by the St Peters Parochial Church Council

Jo McLachlan - Treasurer

Steve Middleton (resigned 23rd July)

Graham Spiers (resigned 13th September)

Phyllis Steventon - Secretary

Dot Williams nominated by the Women’s Institute

Barry Wilson

We wish to thank Steve and Graham for their contribution to the Hall Committee.

In line with the Trust Deed a new Committee will elected at the AGM, and, with the three officers of the past year’s Committee not standing again, will be looking for these roles to be filled. Once filled, an effective hand-over will be put in place.

**LOOKING FORWARD**

The early part of the 2022-2023 year will be dominated by the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations, for which the hall, WI and St Peter’s church have developed a substantial and wide-ranging programme supported by funding from the Arts Council of England. The latter part of the year will hopefully see the progress of both minor capital investments and the first phase of the hall extension. As always, the extent of activity and events in the Hall will be a function of the willingness of members of the community to make it happen or to be a member of the Committee.

Mervyn Jones

Chair