

East Worlington Parish Hall Trustees Report May 2023

Summary of Achievements 2022 – 2023

At the start of the year the chair of the Parish Hall Committee, Steve Baber, stepped down, but the foundations he had laid meant that the hall continued to run smoothly and our regular events carried on as normal. Towards the end of the year, our Treasurer, Nigel Sedgewick, also decided to step down and we are in the process of finding a replacement.

We have:

- a) **Continued to maintain the strength of governance** by retaining and recruiting a multi-skilled board of Trustees / Management Committee who are dedicated to achieving community accountability and by providing effective governance and management of the Parish Hall.
- b) **Maintained effective administration and communication** through the effective services of our Secretary, Maxine Difford.
- c) **Continued to maintain the Hall building.** This included repairs to the central heating system with the assistance of Nigel Pankhurst, painting of interior walls and general maintenance. We are also looking into a new bike rack and upgrading one of the hall windows.
- d) **Looked into Fundraising and Investment opportunities to ensure the Hall funds keep pace with inflation as much as possible.** One-off events such as a gardening talk by David Howard helped boost our fundraising over the year, but our Treasurer, Nigel Sedgewick, has also been investigating investment options and we hope to open an account in a low risk fund early in the next financial year. The monthly draw also continues to run providing funds which have contributed in recent years to installation of WiFi and purchase of additional tables.
- e) **Moved on from COVID-19 to return to normal running.** After a reduced timetable of events in 2021-22, we reinstated a full calendar with the return of our biggest fundraiser: Rock by the River. Although not run directly by the Hall committee, we also contributed to the Jubilee celebrations with help from across the community.

f) **Willingness of the community to get involved.** We are a focus not just for the Committee who work so hard to provide activities and catering for the hall, but the community who support our efforts. Members of the community have helped with a number of events over the year, including:

- Sunday Brunch
- Film Nights
- Quiz Nights
- Pub Nights
- Rock by the River
- Interest talks
- Open Gardens and Cream Teas

Treasurer Report 2022 - 2023

The first normal year for the Parish Hall since the ending of restrictions arising from the Covid pandemic has proved successful. It was expected that the fundraising activities might take a time to get into full swing but the efforts of all involved during the year produced an excellent result with total funds raised of £11,528. Two large charity donations were made by the Hall during the year amounting to £2,600 and, but for this, the income would have exceeded our expenditure by an acceptable margin, despite the prevailing headwinds of rising utility costs and other routine expenses.

The net assets remain substantial and continue to enable the Parish Hall to plan ahead with some confidence. In this regard the Trustees remain cognisant that this is a rare luxury and a position that they intend to pass on to future generations, so that the large capital expenditures that the Hall will inevitably require will be funded.

These assets remain in cash or cash equivalents although the Trustees intend to give consideration to investing a part of the assets in longer term investments that have the potential to achieve a real return over the longer term and are thus more suited to the long-term liabilities associated with the aforementioned capital expenditure.