Kirtlington Annual Parish Meeting, 22nd May 2025

Report from the Village Hall Management Committee

The year 2024-25 has been a year of steady progress, with good bookings income figures, and a major refurbishment project undertaken.

Our funding position is healthy: at the end of the financial year, on 31st March 2025, we had total reserves of £40,578. The fireworks evening in November produced a welcome net profit of £4,837, in spite of rather uncertain weather on the day. Our bookings remain strong, with bookings income over £16K for the year. The PV panels on the roof of the hall continue to provide a small but steady income, in the region of £750 per year, as well as helping to reduce electricity bills.

Our main project during this year has been the complete refurbishment of the kitchen at the hall, which was carried out last summer. The total project cost was just under £40,000. We were extremely grateful to receive some large grants and donations towards this figure: Cherwell District Council awarded us a grant of £15,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund; some local residents made extremely generous donations; the Kirtlington Fete committee supported us by contributing the cost of the new fridge/freezer; the Film Club made a donation; a legacy from a village resident enabled us to purchase the new dishwasher; and community fund-raising by GoFundMe raised over £3,000. We had originally budgeted to use up to £7,500 of our own reserves towards this project, and that was the final amount required.

We were grateful for a donation from the Village Quiz.

Regrettably, we have recently had two episodes of low-level vandalism in the hall, when unauthorised entry was gained from the sports field side; the police have been informed, and may already be aware of a possible culprit.

Looking to the year ahead, we are hoping to undertake a program of external and internal redecoration.

We are still actively trying to recruit more people to join the committee; we have so far been unable to find anyone to take on the role of chair, and our booking secretary wishes to stand down, and so we are very much hoping to find people willing to take on those roles. Some people have joined the committee for a short time during the year, but then left for various reasons.

The current committee members are : Jacqui Hogan (Hon. Secretary), Paula Harvey (Hon. Treasurer), Celia Hawkesworth, Nicola Allison, Zoe Cumming and Liz Pinker (jointly representing the Youth Club), Anthony Child, and Jan Johnson; and we have two non-voting members (who receive an honorarium for their duties): Sian Smith (Bookings Secretary), Mark Harrison (Caretaker). We have been grateful for Briony Enser's attendance, to represent the Parish Council.

Paula Harvey (Hon. Treasurer) 16th May 2025