Kirtlington Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2024

Report from the Village Hall Management Committee

The year 2023-24 has been a year of steady progress, with encouraging income figures, and some worthwhile projects undertaken.

Our funding position is healthy: as at the end of our financial year, on 1st March 2024, we had total reserves of £37K. The fireworks evening in November produced a net profit of £6K (the fireworks in 2024 will be on 9th or 16th November). Our bookings remain strong, with our bookings income in excess of £18K for the year. Donations totalling £1,800 have been received, and for these we are very grateful. The PV panels on the roof of the hall continue to provide a small but steady income, as well as helping to reduce electricity bills. We were pleased to have football bookings once more for the sports field.

Projects carried out this year include the purchase of a new projector and lectern, towards which the Fete Committee made a substantial contribution. We installed dimmable lighting in the main hall, and replaced the heaters in the Cedar Room (which is used by the Youth Club). The defibrillator outside the hall has been registered and serviced by KPC.

A pizza van is trading in the car park on Saturday evenings

We are currently engaged in planning for a complete refurbishment of the kitchen in the hall. We were fortunate to secure a £15K grant from Cherwell District Council; this is conditional upon our raising matching funds, but we have already had extremely generous pledges towards this goal. As at the time of writing, we are finalising discussions with contractors, and hope to be in a position to have the work carried out in August this year.

This report would be incomplete if it did not record the enormous contribution which Bob Wilkes has made to the village hall committee, in his capacity as chair for the last five years. His circumstances now mean that he has to step down from this role, but we are hugely grateful for his leadership over that time.

John Moore was a stalwart on the committee for many years, representing the Film Club, and we were sorry to lose him when he moved to Dorset last year.

So we are now actively trying to recruit a new chair, and more people to join the committee; we were pleased to co-opt Jeffery Miles in April, in accordance with Charity Commission provisions.

The other current committee members are : Jacqui Hogan (Secretary), Paula Harvey (Treasurer), Celia Hawkesworth, Nicola Alison, Zoe Cumming/Liz Pinker (jointly representing the Youth Club); 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) 13th May 2024