

PEOPLETON VILLAGE RECREATION TRUST AGM

8th July 2021

CHAIRMANS REPORT for the year 2020/21

Introduction

This AGM is the first face to face meeting held by the Village Trust since February 2020 – 17 months ago. It's great to be amongst friends and fellow trustees again given the hugely disruptive and restrictive year we've all had to endure.

The pandemic has really restricted the operations of the village hall this past year, so my report will be a little more brief than previous years. The detail of how we've managed particularly with the ever-changing lockdowns, COVID rules and restrictions and the various Tier levels, I'll leave for the Hall Manager to give her report next on our agenda.

In a normal year we would continue to be as active as possible, fundraising through our own events, and receiving income from bookings. But as you'll see in a moment from our accounts, we have been reliant on a different type of income to pay our bills and have really cut our running costs for the many months we had to remain closed.

But this building is over 30 years old, the later extension over 20 years old, and it's starting to show signs of wear, and new facilities – or should I say new competition, is on our doorstep. And therefore we have to work hard to keep this place in tip top condition and modernize where we need to, and look at how we can save on our running costs, to make it attractive to future hirers. I think we'll start addressing these issues in the coming year.

So now we all need to start thinking of and looking more toward a less restricted future, where we live with COVID, but can still operate this valuable community asset as open and freely accessible to all just like it used to be before the pandemic. It needs to get back to being a vibrant and popular venue, and events held here need the villagers support and regular weekly events well patronized. Like anything, if it's not supported, it's not viable, and so it risks not being there for us to enjoy for the future. This equally applies to The Pantry and the pub as well as events and activities here at this hall.

Its important we support all the good things in this village otherwise we risk losing them and so where we live will be much the poorer for it.

Vote of Thanks

But looking back over this past trading year, let me start with a number of thanks.

Let me start by thanking all my fellow Trustees

- John Sargeant
- Les Bailey
- Morag Edmondson
- David Manning
- Chris Jordan
- Kim Maric
- Steve Pike
- Mark Sherward

for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I say it every year, but it's always true that it's been a big team effort all year, and everyone puts in a lot of work to ensure that this hall and grounds continues to be a great community asset.

I also wish to thank Hall Manager Jo Smith, who puts in a huge amount of hard work to manage the hall in and out and in and out of lockdowns, but when it is open making sure that every day the hall and playing fields run smoothly and efficiently, together with the bookings and the accounts. This is a huge job, and it makes the role of a Trustee much easier and having a Hall Manager really does ensure we Trustees make really good decisions.

I also thank our Secretary Carole Hodgetts for all the organisation and support she provides to me and the Trustees, to make sure our committee runs smoothly. Our cleaner Sue Hill who took over a year ago during lockdown and has been doing a fantastic job to get everything in order for when we can be back to normal.

So it's no small undertaking being a volunteer and again I wish to thank them all for everything because without your trustees and staff, there wouldn't be such a successful and well run village hall.

Notable Achievements this Past Year.

Finally, we opened our new play park on the 12th April this year, after months of design work and planning, delays to the works due to COVID, and needing to be patient whilst the landscaping and planting established over winter and spring.

To pay for this we used our £81,000 Community Legacy Grant from Wychavon District Council, and we contributed over £7,000 of our own funds that we raised through various fundraising events and the income we get from hiring the hall.

We creosoted the timber fencing and repainted the spider, we repainted the little house under the horse chestnut trees, tipped more bark around the little house, created a bug hotel and now we have a new hedgehog house to go with it. We changed old for new orange swing

seats and reinstated the waste bin. We installed some bird and bat boxes and planted species to encourage more wildlife. We cleared the roadside ditch back in February.

We're having some further signs erected at the public footpath entrance, and we plan to do some information boards to show the plants and wildlife that we're encouraging to flourish – all in keeping with the natural theme to the play park, and we think really complements the Peopleton Wildlife effort.

We will be putting a new flag on the flagpole, similar to the Peopleton Cricket Club crest.

But we have to keep the play park maintained. That means keeping on top of the grass cutting to create interesting paths to connect the play equipment and maintain the planting and the trees – both of which have had a lot of watering over the dry spring.

We continue to monitor the usage of the play park and in particular those who arrive by car. We will keep the car park open for as long as possible each day, which is made easier when the hall is already open for bookings. But we must balance this with keeping the car park secure when the hall is not in use as we don't want any illegal encampments. Our view is that as COVID restrictions become more relaxed and the hall becomes more and more busy with bookings, the car park will be more available for those driving to use the play park. We closely monitor how this goes.

Other works in the hall – we've replaced a number of old light fittings to LED fittings in corridors and backstage. A much more efficient light source, brighter and lasts longer and less costs to replace the bulbs. This was funded by a further £720 grant from Wychavon.

Looking Ahead

We plan to sort out our storage – lots of things to through out and consolidate what we must keep. The plan would be that we can create space to buy and then store more sports and recreation equipment that can be used outdoors and stored away out of season.

We're delighted to welcome back the Autumn Show on the 4th September

After two years absent, also delighted to be holding our Pony and Dog Show in May 2022.

Planned works this year - external painting including windows and doors, upgrading more lighting to more efficient fittings, hopefully more investment in our grounds to support the Peopleton Wildlife effort, and perhaps some more play equipment in the play park.

But the main event must be the lifting of the COVID restrictions on the 19th July, and what that actually means for all of us, and how this village hall can operate with a full calendar of bookings. I hope it gives us all confidence to start doing more and more outside of our homes, and that we all get out there and support the facilities in this village. Its important.

Steve Smith

Chairman, Peopleton Village Recreation Trust.

8th July 2021

Independent Examiner's report to Peopleton Village Recreation Trust

Re: Receipts and payments account ending 31 March 2021

I have independently examined the accounts of the PVRT as required by the Accounting Regulations.

My responsibilities are:

- 1 Identify whether or not proper accounting records have been kept
- 2 Check that the bank accounts agree with the accounting records
- 3 Check that the accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Accounting Regulations in so far as these apply to the receipts and payments basis.

Where matters arise from this examination that give cause for concern it is my duty to report it.

MY REPORT:

Clear, comprehensive, accounts kept. Excellent!

Signed.....

Helen Bower, Independent Examiner

Date – 15 May 2021



Practice number
18228

Adding time, accuracy and value