

Howden le Wear Village Hall

Report for year ending 31st July 2024

The year has seen further improvements to our facilities with the installation of new blinds for the windows and the replacement of the floor in the main hall following the installation of a new kitchen last summer. We would like to thank the councillors especially Patricia Jopling and Anne Reed for their continued support which is much appreciated. Numbers of members of the community using the Village Hall have increased with the introduction of new activities by our key user Village Friends including the Connect Group, Men's Night, and Chair Aerobics Session to supplement their popular weekly drop in café. We would also highlight the growth of the Tiny Feet baby and toddler group which means that our facilities are used by people of all ages from the local community including the Scouts, History Society, Craft Group, Art Group, Howden Live Music Group, Creative Writing Group and Zumba class. Financially conditions remain challenging with energy bills alone having increased by 28% in the past year while income has remained static even when boosted by donations from funerals and the use of the hall as a polling station in local and national elections. Reluctantly we would propose that the hire fees are increased to ensure that we can continue to afford to heat the hall to a comfortable level in the winter for the benefit of all users. We already have a music licence, and we would now propose that we obtain a motion picture licence at a cost of £326 + VAT per annum to allow us to introduce film nights as part of our regular range of activities. Negotiations for the lease of the garden are continuing with Hewitt's Solicitors of Bishop Auckland acting on our behalf and we are awaiting the return of local searches and other enquiries relating to the land before proceeding to the completion of the lease. Next year is the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of Howden le Wear History Society a thriving group which has made a great contribution to the life of the Village over the years, and we look forward to hosting an exhibition celebrating this milestone in the Society's history next year.

Alan Bowman

Chair

Howden le Wear Village Hall Society

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Twelve Months 01/08/2023 to 31/07/2024

Income

Room Hire	5129.00	(6110)
Donations	573.14	
Grants Restricted Funds	4000.00	
Total	9702.14	

Expenditure

Energy	3895.88	(3040)
Water	374.36	(359)
Communications	656.16	(629)
Property Repairs/Maintenance	13044.66	
Insurance & Licences	1111.11	(976)
Sundries	115.67	
Total	19197.84	

Bank Account Reconciliation 31/07/2024

Cash in Hand 31/07/2023	265.36
Bank 31/07/2023	42929.11
Income	9702.14
Expenditure	19197.84
Bank 31/07/2024	33377.25
Cash in Hand 31/07/2024	321.52

Notes to Accounts

1. Property Repairs and Maintenance includes expenditure of £10,137.30 on kitchen refurbishment supported by a DCC Grant of £8,000

2. Sundries are expenses relating to repairs to the Jubilee Park Mosaic and a donation to RBL Poppy Appeal

3. Donations are the collection at the funerals of Jean Maughan and Cyril Clement plus collections from the dog show and railway exhibition

4. Insurance cover for tenants improvements has been increased to cover the refurbishment of the kitchen.

5. Restricted Funds DCC Floor Grant

Grant Received	£4000
Cheques Issued	£3658.49

6 Restricted Funds: Defibrillator Account

Balance 1/8/23	£1091.10
New Pads	71.94
Electricity Charge	30.00
Balance 1/8/24	£989.16

7. £450 is due from DCC in respect of the use of the Village Hall as a Polling Station.