



THE VILLAGE HALLS CONSORTIUM COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

COMPANY REGISTRATION NO: 5980201

CIO Charity Number 1172429

Director Trustees Report and Financial Statements

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2020**

THE VILLAGE HALLS CONSORTIUM COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020

The Village Halls Consortium is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Registered in England and Wales with company number 1172429

Registered Office: Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton, Barnard Castle,
Co. Durham DL12 0JR

Aims: To promote and improve the effectiveness of Village Hall and Community Organisations in Teesdale and the surrounding area by the provision of advice, information, training and support.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name	The Village Halls Consortium
Charity number	1172429
Company number	5980201 (Dissolved with Charities Commission 28.11.17)
Company Secretary	Sarah Yarrow
Registered office	Mickleton Village Hall Mickleton Barnard Castle County Durham DL12 0JR

Website	www.thevillagehalls.co.uk
Telephone	07921994365

Trustees	David Hutchinson (Chairman) Michael Bettison (Vice Chairman) Marion Hutchinson MBE (Treasurer) David Bailey
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Projects and Marketing Officer	Sarah Yarrow Telephone: 07921994365 villagehallsconsort@hotmail.co.uk
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Independent Examiner Dr Alan Booth

Bankers National Westminster Plc

The Trustees, of (The) Village Halls Consortium for the purposes of company law, have pleasure in presenting their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Chairman's Report 2021

The Village Halls Consortium continues to offer information, advice and guidance to our member community buildings, including advice on how to open up after Covid. This is going to be very different to what we are used to, please be very patient with your volunteers it will be difficult for some to be back as their priorities could have changed, what happened before Covid and what happens after Covid may be very different, some people may never get back to volunteering.

Our website continues to promote events now that things are starting to get back to normal. Please take time to have a look at your halls page and update the details and events including regular and one-off events. If you have any problems logging on, please contact Sarah who will provide login details and support. Events continue to be picked up by local press such as Teesdale Mercury, Darlington & Stockton and The Northern Echo.

The Consortium continues to be part funded from annual membership invoices were sent out in January 2020 and the rest is from our investment portfolio managed by **Brewin Dolphin**. The portfolio value in September 2021 was **£185,373**. Jeff Ball our portfolio manager has very much kept us informed throughout Covid, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeff and his team for their hard work in these difficult times.

We took the opportunity to furlough Sarah for a period in 2020, we did this as all the community buildings were closed, so made sense to do so.

The Village Halls Consortium grant scheme was suspended throughout Covid, but we made sure all the Community Centres got access to the Government Grants that were available, most Centres receiving close to £15,000 each. There were only 2 grants awarded in 2020, one to Dalton & Gayles for help towards their Defib Unit, and one to Eggleston Village Hall for improvements to the insulation of the hall. At our directors meeting in September, we agreed to continue with the grant scheme offering £250 towards projects starting in the New Year 2022.

A short resume and pictures of how the TVHC Grant has made a difference to the individual community buildings, would be welcome for inclusion in future Annual Reports and details can be found on the application form available from Sarah. Please can we reinforce that our grants scheme is a 50% match funded grant and applications have to be agreed at our Directors meetings. Once agreed Sarah will contact you to confirm. Please can we ask that applications are not made in retrospect as we will be unable to support these.

As TVHC turnover is well below the Charity Commission's threshold requiring professional auditing, the committee agreed to ask an independent examiner to check our accounts. I must again thank Dr Alan Booth who has kindly done this for us free of charge, thus saving us a substantial sum.

In 2020 none of the directors claimed any expenses.

We continue to be looking for new trustees, anyone who would like to join us will be more than welcome, we normally meet evenings on the last Wednesday on the month, where possible.

David Hutchinson

Chairman

Structure, Governance and Management

The Consortium was formed in 1995.

We became a registered charity on 3rd January 2003 with charity number 1095212.

On 27th October 2006 the Consortium was incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 as a private company limited by guarantee, company number 5980201, we were issued with a new charity number 1116933.

This decision was taken to limit the personal liability of the trustees and give the Consortium a legal identity which will positively affect our approach to risk and our ability to take advantage of the wider opportunities facing us.

The title of the Consortium was changed in June 2011 from 'Teesdale Village Halls Consortium' to 'The Village Halls Consortium'. The reason for this was to allow membership of Halls from outside the geographical area of Teesdale.

The change of title was registered with the Charity Commission and Companies House.

On 5th April 2017 we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Our new charity number 1172429 and our status with Companies House dissolved on 28.11.17.

The Consortium is composed of volunteer Trustees from the management committees of the thirty three community buildings who are members and representatives from interested partner organisations. Each community hall pays an annual subscription fee of £50 due January/ February to be a member of the Consortium.

Membership entitles members to:

- Inclusion of events on www.thevillagehalls.co.uk
- Regular Information, advice and guidance updates
- General advice and guidance on relevant and up to date information
- One to one help and support when needed
- An individual website page for each hall with member usernames and logins tailored to requirements
- General meetings for TVHC members when relevant
- Assistance, where needed, in organising and running events
- Support with hall redevelopments
- Access to a small grants fund up to £250 per project, for capital and revenue projects annually per hall.
- Training opportunities

Member Halls of the Consortium 1st January – 31st December 2020

33 member community buildings:

- Barnard Castle Witham Hall
- Barningham Village Hall Association
- Boldron Village Hall Association
- Bowes & Gilmonby Parish Hall
- Butterknowle Village Hall Association
- Cockfield Lipscomb Hall
- Copley Village Hall Association
- Cotherstone Village Hall Association
- Dalton and Gayles Village Hall
- Eggleston Village Hall Committee
- Evenwood & Ramshaw Community Centre (Randolph Community Centre 2016)
- Hamsterley Village Hall Association
- Heighington Village Hall

- Hutton Magna Village Hall Association
- Ingleton & District Community Association
- Lands Village Hall Association
- Lunedale Community Association
- Marwood Social Centre
- Mickleton Village Hall Association
- Montalbo Village Hall & Recreational Charity Gainford
- Newbiggin Village Hall
- Newsham Village Hall
- Ovington Village Hall Association
- Romaldkirk Reading Room
- Scarth Memorial Village Hall Association, Staindrop
- Stainton Grove Community Association
- Stainton & Streatlam Community Association
- St Mary's Parish Hall, Barnard Castle
- Toft Hill & Etherley Community Association
- West Auckland Memorial Hall
- Whorlton Village Community Association
- Winston Village Hall Association
- Woodland Village Hall Association

Membership updates.

We welcome Newbiggin who expressed an interest in joining TVHC and we have received relevant documentation to become a member. Associate members are welcome to join with proof of relevant documentation such as Constitution document, registered Charity number and Annual Report.

Related Parties

The Trustees are involved with various other local charities and businesses. Any transactions with these organisations are on an arm's length basis.

Partnership Working and Representation.

TVHC has good relationships with local media- the Teesdale Mercury and special one off events can be included in their events guide or paper. Please contact Sarah or Trevor Brookes with further information of a special event you are holding a month in advance for it to be proposed for inclusion. We often work with Teesdale Action Partnership and DCC.

Details of Wider Networks

The Consortium is involved and works with several networks which are listed below:

- County Durham Community Foundation
- Durham Community Action
- Teesdale Day Clubs
- Mid Tees Project Partnership
- Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)

Risk Management

We have reviewed all major risks facing the charity in the future and have implemented controls where necessary to ensure:

- We meet our charitable objectives.
- We have sufficient reserves to cover financial liabilities.
- We have sufficient policies and insurance to cover all possible liabilities.

The Role of The Village Halls Consortium:

Objectives

The Village Halls Consortium charitable objectives as set out in our Memorandum of Association are:

“ to promote and improve the effectiveness of Village Hall and Community Organisations in Teesdale and the surrounding area by the provision of advice, information, training and support, with a view to improving the efficiency and management of their resources.”

The Consortium has four objectives which we are constantly striving to achieve through our work and various projects that we deliver:

1. To support provision of improved and more accessible facilities and services at local community buildings to meet community needs;
2. To encourage participation in capacity building training opportunities;
3. To develop effective communication between the members and other local organisations which are interested in community development;
4. To improve the long-term viability of the community buildings as rural assets for the benefit of all residents.

We set specific key targets to achieve these objectives which are discussed at monthly director's meetings and reviewed annually.

The Trustees have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's on public benefit in deciding upon the activities that The Village Halls Consortium should undertake. We have outlined key features within our CIO Constitution document with relevant guidance also.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

TVHC website, Information, Advice and Guidance.

The website is a center point for key information for members with designated login areas for members to update community building information, events and images.

Information, advice and guidance can be sought from our e-mail address villagehallsconsort@hotmail.co.uk or contact number on a part time basis. Our contacts database is expanding to include services to the community as well as lists of roles and responsibilities and contact details for each community building in line with GDPR. If there is a preference for post this is identified. Rather than a newsletter, regular information is shared via e-mail, phone and post when necessary, therefore keeping information more current.

Disclosure & Barring Service

Disclosure & Barring Service checks can be completed online @ www.onlinedbschecks.co.uk (Please make sure all your members are up to date).

The Village Halls Charter.

An updated copy is available to all halls please contact Sarah at villagehallsconsort@hotmail.co.uk

As legislation and governance requires so much work from voluntary committees the continuation of input and researched information from TVHC is helpful to support activities in the Dales' Village Halls and Community Centre's.

The TVHC Grant Scheme.

The Grant scheme allows each hall the opportunity to access a maximum £250 grant annually which was frozen during the Coronavirus pandemic 2019- 2020 due to community buildings having access to funding made available to support the closure of community buildings during the pandemic and then the reopening of community buildings following the pandemic. Grants applications will be welcomed in January 2022 as agreed by the trustees in September 2021. Community buildings can apply for a maximum £250 for projects costing £500 or more. Applications can be made for either capital or revenue projects costs, all member communities can apply. The grant application form has been reviewed in 2019 to make applying easier and so TVHC have a more coherent point of reference for applications. This year we have had 2 applications.

In 2020 2 projects benefited from the grant scheme.

Community Building	Application Month	Project outline	Total project cost	Amount received from TVHC
Eggleston	March 2020	Insulation	£1776	£250
Dalton & Gayles	April 2019	Defibrillator for Gayles telephone box	£1800	£250
Total			£3576	£500

Thank you to the following organisations for their support in 2020:

Dr Alan Booth
Charity Commission
Durham County Council Councilors for Teesdale
Durham Rural Community Council
Joe Hutchinson (Website Design)
Lightning Signs
Linton's Printers
Mickleton Village Hall
North East Ambulance Service
Teesdale Action Partnership
Teesdale Day Clubs
Teesdale Mercury

Financial Review

At the start of 2020 our portfolio was worth £168777 and as of 31st Dec 2020 it was worth £170361 and this figure includes us withdrawing £6000 to pay for the running costs of the consortium.

Exit Strategy Costs

The exit costs remains at £2K. This is reviewed regularly.

Investment Policy

We tend to adopt a low risk approach to investment, and we feel that our investment procedures mirror this. Funds required to be available in the short-term are invested in short-term easy access deposits. Funds set aside to provide income to subsidize our running costs and Village Halls small grants scheme are placed in a low risk investment portfolio with Brewin Dolphin investment managers.

Accounts- CIO Charity Number 1172429

TVMC CIO
1st January 2020 - 31st December 2020

Expenses		Income	
David Hutchinson-website	£84.24	Subscriptions 2020	£1100
Salary	£6854	EasyFundraising	£98.83
Phone	£132	Brewin Dolphin	£6000
Grants	£500	HMRC Purlough Scheme	£5491.20
Insurance	£780		
Hall Hire	£520		
Total expenses	£8380.24	Income	£12690.03
Current account opening balance 1.1.2020	£136.51	Current account closing balance 31.12.20	£4446.30
Brewin Dolphin Portfolio at 31.12.19	£166777	Brewin Dolphin portfolio 31.12.20	£170361

I am satisfied that the above Statement is in accordance with the underlying documents & records of the T.V.A.C

[Signature]

(Mr. Arun Baidya) Hon. Independent Director

Management Director Trustee Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

Charity Commission rules require the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial activities of the Consortium during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- i) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- ii) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- iii) state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practices have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statement.
- iv) prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Consortium will continue to operate.

The Directors are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Consortium and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Consortium and hence for taking steps for preventing and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the Directors

D Hutchinson

David Hutchinson

Chairman

The Trustees thank everyone who has contributed in any way to the work of The Village Halls Consortium during 2020.

This Report is compiled from information given by user groups, partners and members of The Village Halls Consortium.

The Report is produced, assembled and printed on behalf of The Village Halls Consortium.

TVHC CIO

1st January 2020- 31st December 2020

Expenses			Income	
David Hutchinson-website	£84.24		Subscriptions 2020	£1100
Salary	£6864		EasyFundraising	£98.83
Phone	£132		Brewin Dolphin	£6000
Grants	£500		HMRC Furlough Scheme	£5491.20
Insurance	£280			
Hall Hire	£520			
Total expenses	£8380.24		Income	£12690.03
Current account opening balance 1.1.2020	£136.51		Current account closing balance 31.12.20	£4446.30
Brewin Dolphin Portfolio at 31.12.19	£168777		Brewin Dolphin portfolio 31.12.20	£170361