



THE VILLAGE HALLS CONSORTIUM
Director Trustees Annual Report
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2024

The Village Halls Consortium is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (1172429).

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, with a view to improving the efficiency and management of their resources.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Registered charity name: The Village Halls Consortium
Charity number: 1172429
Registered office: Mickleton Village Hall, Mickleton, Barnard Castle, Co Durham
DL12 0JY
Website: www.thevillagehalls.co.uk
Telephone: 07809314248

Trustees: David Hutchinson
Michael Bettison
David Bailey

Administration Officer: Sophie Stanwix
villagehallsconsort@hotmail.co.uk

Independent Examiner for accounts: Jayne Holmes
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 2024.

Chairman's Report 2025

The Village Halls Consortium (TVHC) continues to offer regular information and guidance to our member community buildings, including advice on request.

Following feedback at our AGM, we took on board what members said about our grant fund and agreed to change it from 2 grants of £250 per year to 1 grant of £500 starting from 1 January 2025. TVHC supported a total of 8 projects throughout 2024 to improve buildings and facilities. Members who have paid their annual membership fee can apply for 50% matched funding up to £500 once per year. Applications made in retrospect of a project being completed will not be considered.

The former TVHC website was dated and lacked functionality, so we decided to build a new website that was launched in February 2025. It looks as good on mobile as on desktop and we have received great feedback. I want to thank Sophie and Joe for all their hard work in putting together such a brilliant website. Mickleton Village Hall continues to find the 'Hall Booking Online' system very beneficial, making it easy for users to check availability and request bookings.

TVHC continues to be part-funded from annual memberships of £50, and the remainder is from our investment portfolio managed by Brewin Dolphin. The opening portfolio value was £157,259.74. After £8000 was withdrawn for running costs towards TVHC over the year, the closing balance was £164,885 on 31 December 2024. I want to take this opportunity to thank Jeff Ball, our Portfolio Manager, and his team for keeping us informed throughout fluctuations in the market and for all their hard work.

As TVHC's turnover is below the Charity Commission's threshold requiring professional auditing, the Committee agreed to ask an independent examiner to check our accounts. I must thank Jayne Holmes who has kindly done the accounts this year. In 2024, none of the directors claimed any expenses.

We continue to look for new trustees to join TVHC. If you are interested, please contact me or Sophie, and we would be delighted to welcome you. We usually meet in the evenings.

David Hutchinson

Chairman

Structure, Governance and Management

- The Consortium was formed in 1995.
- On 3rd January 2003 we became a registered charity (1095212).
- On 27th October 2006 the Consortium was incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 as a private company limited by guarantee (company number: 5980201) and 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 positively affected our approach to risk and our ability to take advantage of the wider opportunities facing us.
- In June 2011, the title of the Consortium was changed from 'Teesdale Village Halls Consortium' to 'The Village Halls Consortium'. The reason for this was to expand our support to community buildings located 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 with a new charity number (1172429) and our status with Companies House was dissolved on 28.11.17.

The Village Halls Consortium (TVHC) is composed of volunteer trustees from the management committees of community buildings who are members and representatives from interested partner organisations. Each community building pays an annual subscription fee of £50 due January/February to be a TVHC member.

Membership entitles members to:

- An individual website page on www.thevillagehalls.co.uk
- Access to a grant fund of up to £250 towards capital or revenue projects per year
- Event listings and marketing support
- 1:1 advice and support when required
- Regular information, advice and guidance updates
- General advice and guidance on relevant and up to date information
- General meetings for TVHC members when relevant
- Support with hall redevelopments
- Training opportunities

Members of The Village Halls Consortium 1st January – 31st December 2024
28 community buildings

Barningham Village Hall
Boldron Village Hall
Bowes and Gilmonby Parish Hall
Butterknowle Village Hall
Carlbeck Community Centre
Cockfield Lipscomb Hall
Copley Village Hall
Cotherstone Village Hall
Dalton and Gayles Village Hall
Eggleston Village Hall
Gainford Village Hall
Hamsterley Village Hall
Hutton Magna Village Hall
Ingleton Village Hall
Marwood Social Centre
Mickleton Village Hall
Newbiggin Village Hall
Newsham Village Hall
Ovington Village Hall
Romaldkirk Reading Rooms
Scarth Hall
School Aycliffe Community Centre
St Mary's Parish Hall
Stainton and Streatlam Village Hall
Toft Hill and Etherley Community Centre
West Auckland Memorial Hall
Whorlton Village Hall
Winston Village Hall

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 a good relationship with the Teesdale Mercury and Durham County Council.

Details of Wider Networks

TVHC is involved with several networks which are listed below:

- Durham Community Action
- Teesdale Day Clubs
- Teesdale Action Partnership (TAP)
- ACRE - Action for Communities in Rural England

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

The aim of TVHC as set out in our Memorandum of Association is: "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."

Objectives

TVHC 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 TVHC should undertake. We have also outlined key features within our CIO Constitution document with relevant guidance.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

TVHC Website

The website provides key information about our member community buildings including contact details, facilities, hire rates, events and images.

Information, Advice and Guidance

Regular information is shared via email when necessary. Our contact database is expanding to include services to the community as well as lists of roles and contact details for each member community building in line with GDPR.

TVHC Grant Scheme

Our grant scheme provides an opportunity for each member community building to access a maximum £250 grant annually, for either capital or revenue projects, costing £500 or more. The grant application form was reviewed, and members are required to provide an up to date copy of their constitution for new applications.

In 2024, **8 projects** benefited from our grant scheme.

Community building	Application month	Project outline	Total project cost	Grant amount received
St Mary's	Sept 2023	Chair refurbishment	£2800	£250
West Auckland	Sept 2023	New chairs	£509.81	£250
Cotherstone	May 2024	Slate roof vents	£2075.50	£250
Hamsterley	May 2024	Fence replacement	£748	£250
Winston	Aug 2024	Blind replacement	£195	£97.50
Barningham	Aug 2024	New equipment	£307.56	£153.78
Romaldkirk	Aug 2024	Kitchen renovation	£3700	£250
Dalton and Gayles	Oct 2024	New water boiler	£503.98	£250
Total			£10,839.85	£1,751.28

Thank you to the following organisations for their support in 2024

Jayne Holmes for auditing the accounts

Charity Commission

Durham County Council

Durham Community Action

Joe Hutchinson (Website Design)

Mickleton Village Hall

North East Ambulance Service

Teesdale Action Partnership

Teesdale Day Clubs

Teesdale Mercury

Financial Review

Our opening portfolio value was £157,259.74 and the closing value was £164,885 on 31 December 2024. This figure includes us withdrawing £8000 to pay for the running costs of The Village Halls Consortium.

Exit Strategy Costs

The exit costs remain at £2000. 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 subsidise our running costs and small grants scheme are placed in a low-risk investment portfolio with Brewin Dolphin investment managers.

Accounts - CIO Charity Number 1172429

1st January to 31st December 2024

Expenses		Income	
Salary	£5940.00 ✓	Brewin Dolphin	£8000.00 ✓
Grants	£1751.28 ✓	Subscriptions	£1800.00 ✓
HMRC	£1123.98 ✓	Easy Fundraising	£37.09 ✓
Insurance	£356.28 ✓	D Hutchinson	£100.00 ✓
Website	£217.15 ✓		
AGM hire	£42.00 ✓		
Total expenses	£9430.69 ✓	Total income	£9937.09 ✓
Current account opening balance 1.1.24	£1245.56 ✓	Current account closing balance 31.12.24	£1751.96 ✓
Brewin Dolphin portfolio at 31.12.23	£157,259.74	Brewin Dolphin portfolio at 31.12.24	£164,885.00

Financial year ending 31st December 2024

Accounts audited and found to be correct with information provided

Sunder 20/6/25

JANE HOWES

1st January to 31st December 2023

Expenses		Income	
Grants	£1477.92	Subscriptions	£1100.00
Insurance	£252.11	Easy Fundraising	£143.09
Salary	£6864.00	Brewin Dolphin	£8000.00
Phone	£133.00		
Website	£100.63		
Laptop	£399.00		
Total expenses	£9226.66	Total income	£9243.09
Current account opening balance 1.1.23	£1229.13	Current account closing balance 31.12.23	£1245.56
Brewin Dolphin portfolio at 31.12.22	£154,048	Brewin Dolphin portfolio at 31.12.23	£157,259.74

Financial year ending 31st December 2023

Checked and found to be correct with the information provided

Sunder

JANE HOWES 29/9/24

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 Village Halls Consortium (TVHC) 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 TVHC 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 TVHC and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of TVHC 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 2024.

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.