

KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 27 May 2025

I think the hall is currently in good shape in terms of its condition, finances and lettings. I would like to express my thanks to Peter, our unofficial clerk of works, to Miki and her team of helpers for the Coffee Mornings and to Chris for keeping our accounts in good order and managing the bar. Sarah, our secretary, continues to manage lettings without a hitch and I would also like to thank Jill for regularly checking the condition of the hall between lettings.

Chris is also putting a lot of effort into finalising our CIO status. With the help of ACRE's CIO consultant, Louise Beaton, the Charity Commission has registered the merger of KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL (274947) with KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL (1197094) on 21 January 2025. The CIO has also been registered with Barclay's Bank and, finally, our new title to the Village Hall now has to be lodged with the Land Registry. All this takes time and effort and we are grateful to Chris for giving both.

As you are aware, a number of planned village events, not just those connected to the Village Hall, were cancelled this year mainly because of lack of support. Meanwhile, more casual, drop-in events such as pub evening, coffee morning and art and music nights continue to flourish. The Quiz and Chips was also a sell-out. Therefore, we need to look critically at our traditional main fundraising events, notably the BBQ and Christmas Fair, to examine how they might be refocused or replaced.

We have put a lot of effort this year into looking at potential savings in our running costs. In September we installed solar panels and batteries with the aid of a £9,300 South Cambs Zero Carbon Communities Grant. We are grateful to the Parish Council for contributing £500, while we put in another £500 from our own reserves. Once an agreement has been set up with our supplier to sell surplus to the grid (this is not a simple process), we should have enough to cover our daily standing charge, plus providing a small income. Cleaning costs had risen to a point where they were out of proportion to our letting income and Peter, after much searching, has found a local cleaner who will halve our costs. Finally, we have cancelled our film licence as there has been no use made of it, but we can still screen live events through our BBC licence.

In the small hall the position of the TV attracts reflections from the windows which makes daytime viewing difficult. We have now mounted the TV on a flexible arm so that it can be tilted or directed down the hall to maximise the number of viewers. With a summer of sport coming up, Keith and Jill will keep an eye on main events and notify the village through WhatsApp and email that they will be screened in the hall.

We do need a new generation of committee members (trustees) to begin to shadow the key posts of chair, secretary, treasurer and clerk of works. Apart from that of the treasurer, those posts are held by people of advanced years and this is not sustainable. Without these key posts filled the hall would have to close, as has happened elsewhere in the county.

We could do with more lettings and we should examine ways to advertise the hall more widely. We must also continue to impress on the village that we are a management, not a social committee. We need to get the message across that if people have a good idea for a club, such as Music Night and Table Tennis, we will provide support, and possibly some equipment. The installation of picture rail for art exhibitions is another good example. Another possibility is the creation of a social sub-committee to take on the planning and management of social events.

Finally, we must be mindful that we have had a considerable windfall income from South Cambs during lockdown. We have used this to invest in solar panels, screen and projector and fuel saving controls

for the boiler. From now on we must concentrate on getting returns from our investments and move to a position where our income from lettings and fund raising covers our outgoings. We must also conserve our capital reserves for planned and unforeseen maintenance in the coming decade when the public purse for grants may not be as generous as it has been.

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Income and Expenditure Account - Year to 31st December 2024

(2023) Expenditure	£	Income	£	(2023)
-1265.43 Electricity and Oil	-885.22	Karate Hall Hire	198.00	330.00
-173.76 Water rate	-180.48	Other Hire	1053.50	1701.00
-1937.77 Hall maintenance	-1252.34	Quiz & Chips (excl. bar takings)	479.21	287.98
-2579.25 Equipment	-10300.00	BBQ	41.25	204.66
-731.08 Insurance	-744.03	Pub (includes tabletennis, any cash paid)	2670.43	3294.83
-428.20 Premises/Bar licence fees/charges	-294.00	Christmas fair	12.00	1164.42
-864.00 Cleaning of Hall	-1392.19	Other income (incl. interest, coffee morning)	257.03	335.76
-269.05 Village Children's Xmas party	-173.66	Blues evenings (incl. bar profits)	0.00	0.00
-166.93 Sundry expenses eg. stationery, lloo hire	-42.00	Direct donations	0.00	0.00
-2047.51 Pub stock	-1256.23	Grants	9800.00	685.00
-10462.98 Total expenditure	-16520.15	Total income	14511.42	8003.65
Excess/(deficit) income over expenditure	-2008.73	<i>2023: excess of expenditure over income</i>		-2459.33
-10462.98 Total	-14511.42		14511.42	10462.98

Balance Sheet 31st December 2024

General Fund	£	Net assets	£
		Balance at Bank:	
Current a/c at 1st Jan 2024	5335.41	Current a/c at 31st Dec 2024	5416.68
Deposit a/c at 1st Jan 2024	3899.00	Deposit a/c at 31st Dec 2024	1809.00
Savings account (Cambridge BS)	15000.00	Savings account (Cambridge BS)	15000.00
Cash in hand at 1st Jan 2024	229.44	Cash in hand at 31st Dec 2024	229.44
Pub cash float at 1st Jan 2024	50.00	Pub cash float at 31st Dec 2024	50.00
Balance at 1st Jan 2024	24513.85		
Add excess of income over expenditure	-2008.73		
	22505.12	Balance at 31st Dec 2024	22505.12

Notes

- 1 The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis ie they only reflect items that have been received or paid for in the year.
- 2 Amounts due from the Parish Council, and from the Parish Church in respect of Hall rental, are not included in the above accounts as they have not yet been received.
- 3 Pub evening expenditure includes pub stocks held at the year end for use in pub evenings in 2024.



C.Reid (Hon Treasurer)