

Berryfield Village Hall – AGM 4 Sept 2024

Chairs report for 2022 to Dec 2023

2022

The start

The construction of the new Berryfield Village Hall was completed September 2022, under the steer of our landlord, Melksham Without Parish Council. In November an inaugural AGM was held to form the Berryfield Village Hall Trust, which began a flurry of hard work.

2023

Getting going

From beginning with a blank sheet, the committee put in place a new booking system, clarified our hire rates and terms, pieced together a schedule of regular hirers and ensured the hall was suitably equipped. We were granted charitable status in January 2023, signed the lease of the building on 21st February, then opened our doors to the public the next day. Our thanks go to the Parish Council and its staff for their support to the Trust.

Projects

During our first year in 2023, we organised and completed three projects: Improvement of the planted beds around the car parking area; fitted blinds to main windows and skylights; and installation of purpose-built shelving in a large cupboard space to accommodate our regular groups storage needs.

2024

Looking forward

In March 2024, we marked the hall's first year of operation with a networking event for our regular hirers. We wanted to thank them for their commitment to the hall and it was a memorable afternoon.

The hall now hosts 20 regular groups and a diverse range of activities for all ages. For example, baby/toddler groups, art & crafts, fitness, dance & wellbeing, and free community events for local families. It is also well used by private hirers for parties, celebrations, meetings and training sessions.

Projects

Early in 2024, we submitted and were successful with three funding bids towards the cost of two capital projects to improve the accessibility and comfort of hall users. All work has been completed during July and August.

- 1) **Installation of acoustic ceiling rafts** to improve sound resonance in the hall. We received grant funding of £4,800 from Melksham Without Parish Council towards the total cost of £5,100. We have since received positive feedback from people using the hall, including those with hearing impairments. We are confident that this has improved the acoustics for larger group events and musical activities.
- 2) **Installation of air conditioning.** In warmer weather, because the main hall windows are sealed (due to planning conditions) the heat soars. On some occasions, the room temperature has reached in excess of 30+ degrees and booked activities were unable to run. With a total project cost of about £14,800, we were successful in securing a

grant of £3,725 from Melksham Area Board, and £10,000 from the Suez Community Fund. The air conditioning units will greatly improve usage of the hall in all seasons.

Volunteers

While the committee oversees the day-to-day running of the facility and all project development, the hall cannot run without volunteers. I thank my fellow trustees and committee members, past and present for all of their time and commitment to help make the hall a success. Our committee also includes a couple of regular hirer representatives, who are invaluable for first-hand feedback. Of our original band of nine, we have said farewell (for now) to Leanne and Win; meanwhile, we have welcomed Jacqui to the role of Secretary.

Can you help us?

We always welcome volunteers to help with opening/closing the hall for one-off bookings and our moveable partition. This is subject to the variable needs of a weekly rota, your availability and there is no regular commitment required. If you are interested then please contact us.

Get in touch:

Website www.hallbookingonline.com/berryfield

Facebook www.facebook.com/BerryfieldVillageHall

Email BerryfieldVillageHall@outlook.com

Phone 07566 746788

Shona Holt, Chair of Berryfield Village Hall Trust

September 2024

Berryfield Village Hall
Accounts to 31st December 2023

Income & Expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023
Income			
Hirers fees - regular	10019		10019
Hirers fees - ad hoc	4416		4416
Donation	300		300
Grants	7000		7000
	<u>21735</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21735</u>
Expenditure			
Electricity	2396		2396
Water	118		118
Rent	10		10
Telephone / internet	393		393
Insurance	1006		1006
Set up costs	3129	2233	5362
Maintenance	1500		1500
Gardening	1793		1793
Cleaning	1230		1230
Subscriptions	410		410
	<u>11985</u>	<u>2233</u>	<u>14218</u>
Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>9750</u>	<u>-2233</u>	<u>7517</u>

Balance sheet

	2023	2022
Assets		
Bank	<u>10355</u>	<u>2837</u>
Net Assets	10355	2837
Reserves		
Unrestricted	10355	605
Restricted	<u>0</u>	<u>2233</u>
Total reserves	10355	2837