

**ROCK VILLAGE HALL AND MILLENNIUM GREEN
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday 12th November 2021, 7.30pm at the Hall**

MINUTES

Present: 21, including 13 committee members and bookings secretary Carol Franklin.

Opening remarks/ welcome:

The chairman, David Griffiths, welcomed all attending.

Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Barry Merchant, Sue Merchant, Lesley Hall, Tina Brown, Ben Goater and Ian Wilson.

Minutes from the 2020 AGM (held on 25th June 2021 due to the Covid pandemic):

These were read by all present and accepted by the meeting as a true record (proposed by Jackie Osborn and seconded by Colin Link and approved unanimously).

Matters Arising:

There were none.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary, Richard Hall, had prepared a report, as outlined below, on matters of significance during the year:

The committee

This has been another unusual year because of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions related to it, with the 2020 AGM (covering the year to October 2020) only being held on 25th June 2021. This report covers the year November 2020 to October 2021.

The committee now has 22 members* - see footnote. New members have joined during the last year – Jayne Dearn, Emma Moore, Stephanie Morrison, Kerry Tipper and David Elliott. There have been 11 monthly meetings in the last year, as there was no meeting in December. The monthly meetings have, on average, been attended by 14.5 members or about 72% of the membership. Meetings from November 2020 to March 2021 inclusive had to be held on-line using Zoom (which some members were unable to access) because of the Covid-19 lockdown. David Griffiths has served as chairman, taking over from Bob Marriott, with Barry Merchant as treasurer and Richard Hall as secretary. The committee has continued to manage the village defibrillator at the Rock Cross pub.

Events held in the last year

Regrettably all planned village hall events and private hires in the early part of 2021 had to be cancelled to comply with restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Village Hall activities restarted with the postponed 2020 AGM on 25th June and the committee meeting at the hall on 28th June. Some regular users were able to re-start activities from June onwards with special measures and risk assessments to limit spread of Covid-19, including the bridge club, short mat bowls, Zumba, the WI, pilates, yoga, dance and the Little Acorns toddler group.

Village hall events held since June are Pound the Bounds on 22nd August (organised by Colin Thornton and Ian Wilson), Rock Show on 4th September (coordinated by Bob and Chris Marriott),

rock concert on 9th October (arranged by Fran Cratchley), Halloween Quiz Night on 29th October (led by Keith Brown) and the Children's Halloween Party the next day (run by Fran Cratchley and Sue Hopkins). All have been well attended.

Maintenance and repairs

Building sub-committee members David Hall, Richard Hall, David Griffiths, Ian Wilson and Steve Wightman have continued organising and carrying out routine maintenance and improvements; see report by David Hall.

Village Hall website and Facebook page

The website www.rockvillagehall.co.uk continues to be well used, allowing everyone to see what events are on and when the hall is available to be booked, as well as hosting useful local adverts. The Facebook page is also a useful source of information.

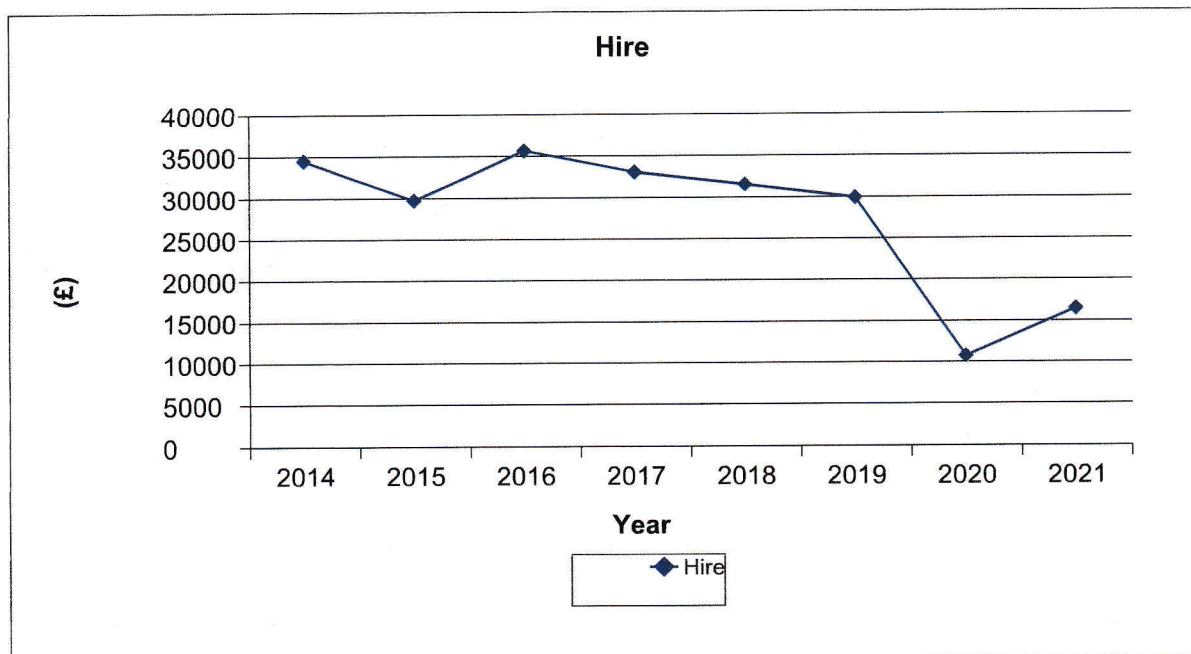
**The current committee members are: Keith Brown, Jayne Dearn, David Elliott, Fran Cratchley, Ann Emmings, Ben Goater, David Griffiths, David Hall, Necia Hall, Richard Hall, Susan Hopkins, Bob Marriott, Chris Marriott, Barry Merchant, Emma Moore, Stephanie Morrison, Len Pitman, Peter Siviter, Kerry Tipper, Kath Thornton, Steve Wightman and Ian Wilson.*

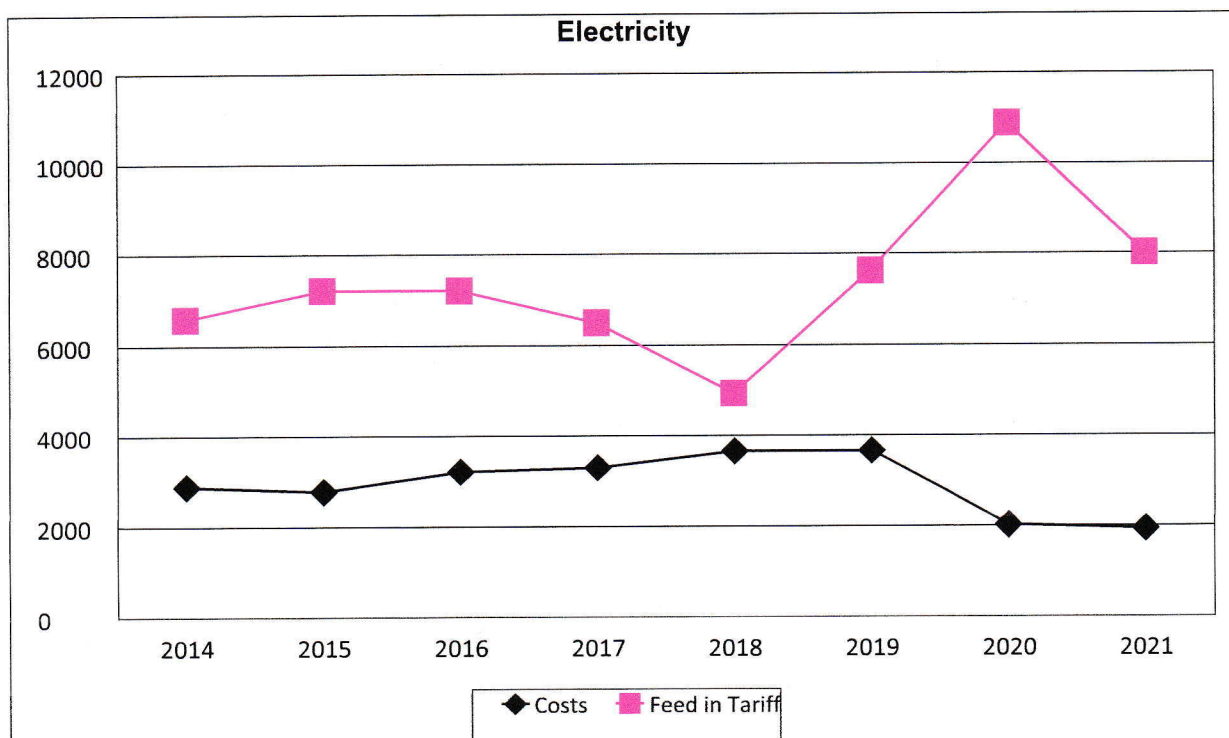
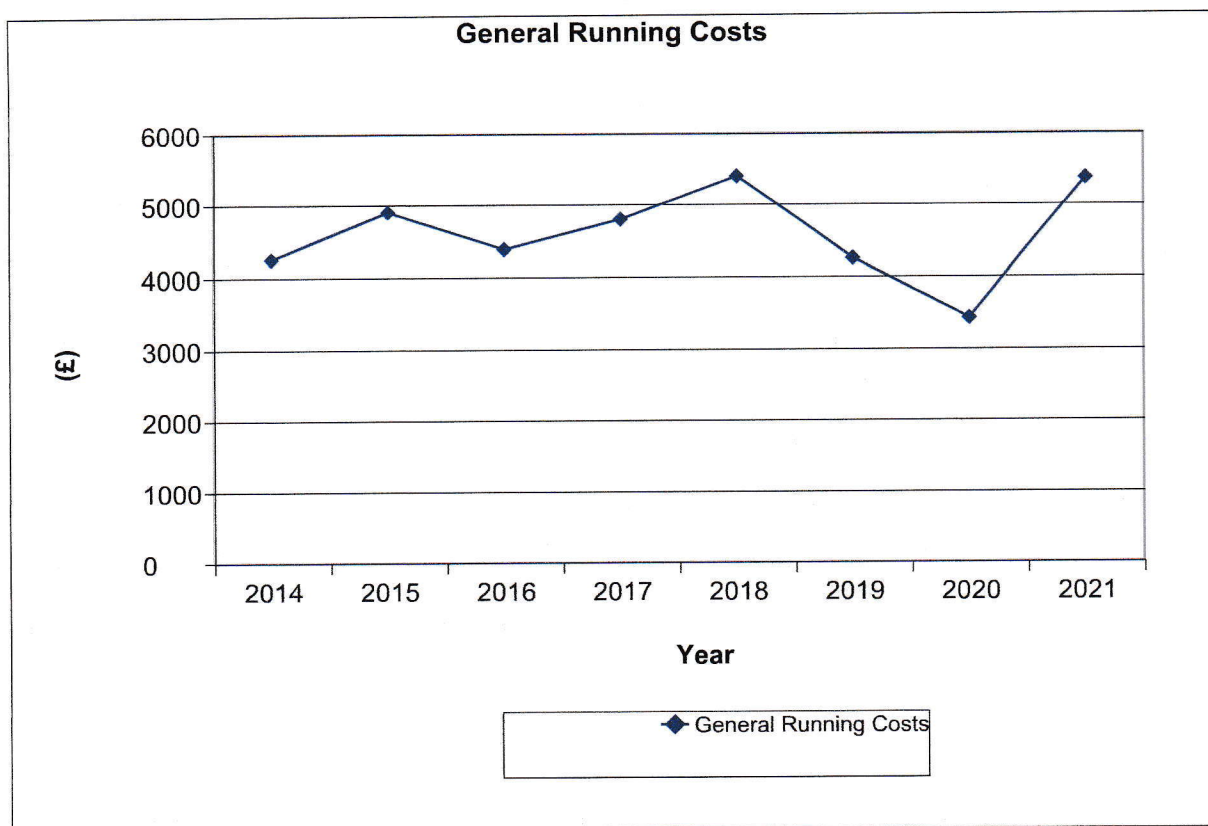
Treasurer's Report 2021

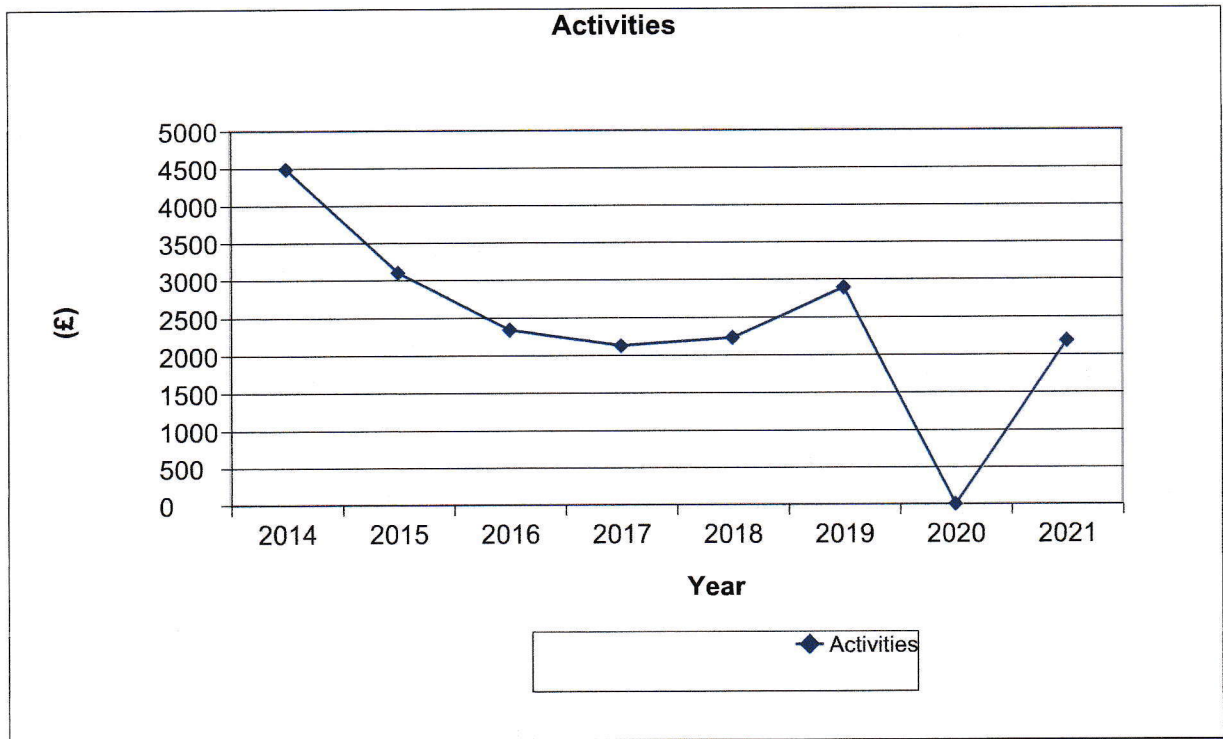
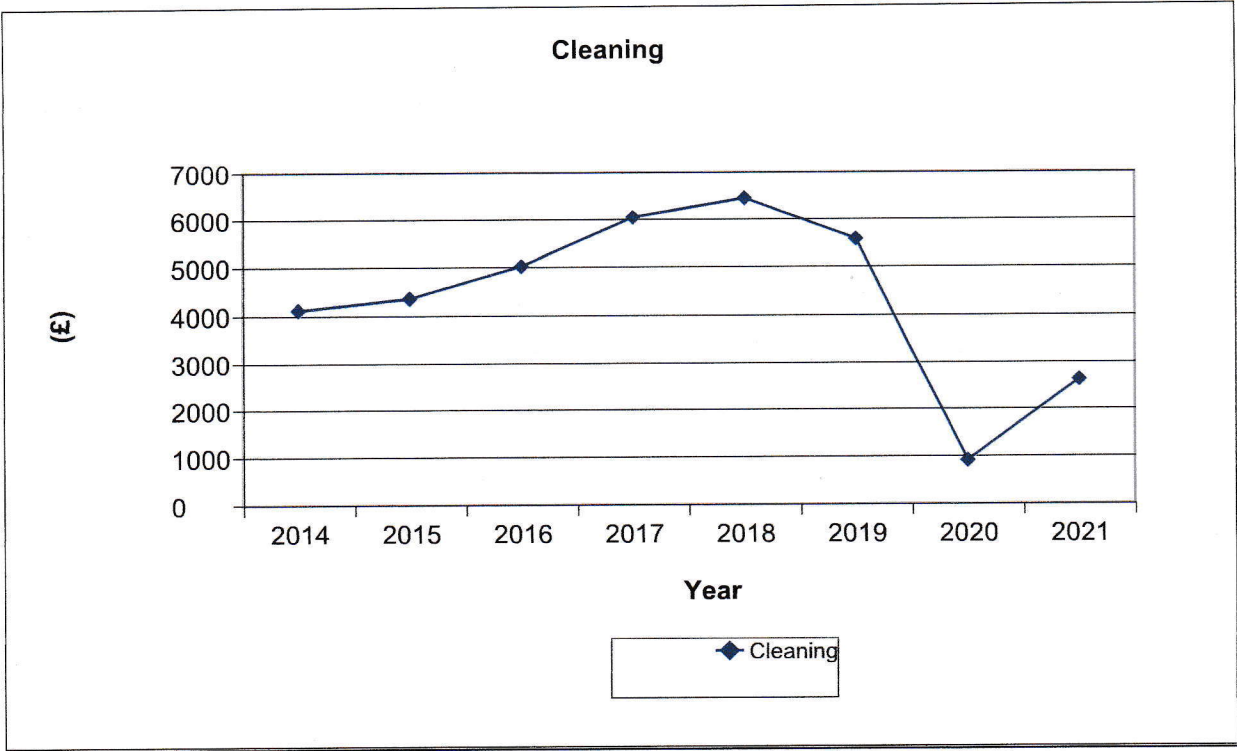
1. Thanks again to Peter Bill who has examined the Receipts and Payments Accounts for the Village Hall (see page 7). For the year to 30/9/21 they were found to be correct according to the Books and Records presented.
2. The main key indicators used to monitor the health of the hall's finances are shown on the trend sheets.
3. Comments: This year's figures have again been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions. The hire of the hall has suffered from over £12k's worth of cancellation costs alone. Once again we have received Local Restrictions Support Grants and a Restart Grant from Wyre Forest District Council; which has compensated for the loss of income. During the accounting period the committee has also paid out substantial sums for further improvement work at the hall e.g. New patio and rails; Acoustic dampening in the hall.
 - a. Hire –Most of the regular hirers e.g. Bridge Club, Zumba, Little Acorns etc had to cancel their bookings for a large part of the year. In addition to this, 14 Wedding hires were either cancelled or postponed. This led to the hall having to refund hire fees in many instances. With the lifting of restrictions hire income is just starting to return to normal.
 - b. General Running Costs – Expenses have returned to pre Covid Restriction Levels. This reflects the costs of preparing the hall for use again and the return of hirers to the hall.
 - c. Electricity – The FIT payments for the year were not quite as good as the previous year but they were still the second best on record. Due to the hall closure for much of the year, generation payments easily exceeded running costs in terms of electricity.
 - d. Cleaning – Costs have doubled over the previous year because of the halls return to use later in 2021. They were still only about half of pre Covid Restrictions levels, but it is expected they will increase in the period 2021-2022.

- e. Activities – It was only possible to run one event e.g. Rock Show, because of the pandemic. Everything else was cancelled due to the restrictions. The show itself was very successful.
 - f. Income & Expenditure – Expenditure again exceeded income. The gap was nowhere near as great as 2019-2020, but the effect of Covid restrictions was a major contributor to the hall's reduction in income. The hall has also paid out significant amounts for building works e.g. patio, acoustic panels.
 - g. Surplus – The deficit on the year reduced from almost £30k in 2020 to just under £5k. The reasons for this are given in paragraphs (a) – (f).
4. We currently have £80.5K at the bank of which we have ring-fenced a £35.2K contingency fund to cover repayment of Hire fees and Village Hall repairs from further unforeseen problems.

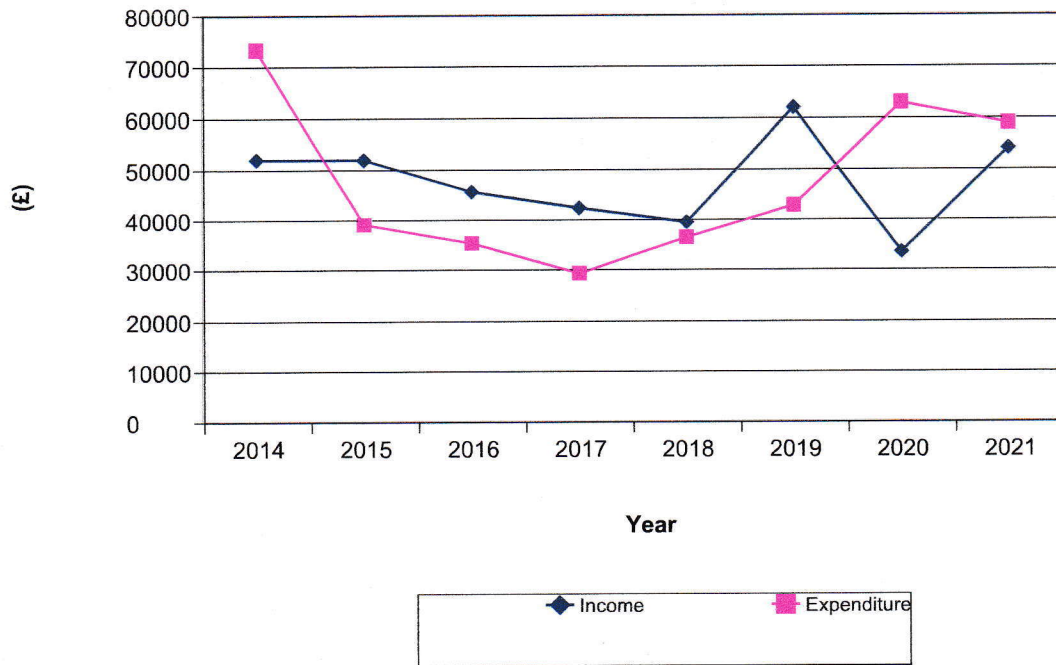
Trends



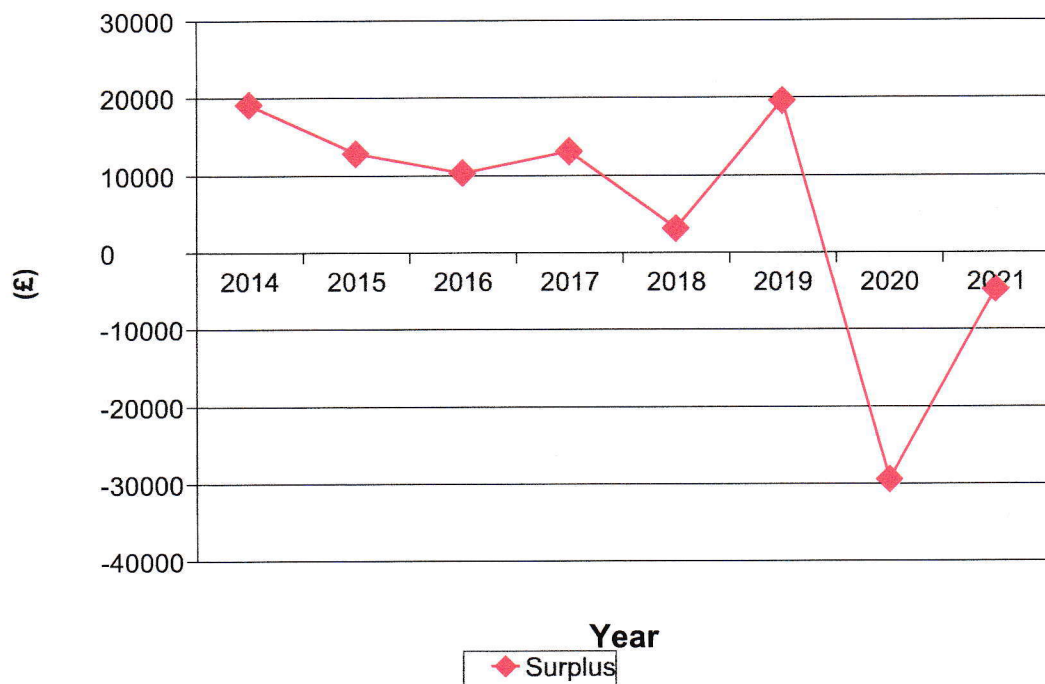




Income vs Expenditure



Surplus



ROCK VILLAGE HALL

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 30/9/21

YEAR TO 30/09/2020	ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS	RECEIPTS (£)	PAYMENTS (£)	NETT RECEIPT (£)
	RECEIPTS			
0.00	Hall Activities/Events	2185.34		
10728.75	Hire of Hall	16450.95		
540.00	Donations	0.00		
85.68	Barclays Bank Interest	6.80		
405.00	Website Advertising	0.00		
144.00	Compensation for pipe damage (AVIVA)	10025.16		
10875.05	PV Panel feedin Tariff	8001.77		
0.00	BT Credit for Internet Downtime	40.00		
10000.00	Grants	17431.00		
747.52	WFDC Rates Refund	0.00		
0.00	Bowls Club Insurance	0.00		
33526.00		54141.02		
	PAYMENTS			
747.52	Annual WFDC Non Domestic Rates		190.79	
167.99	Website Costs		168.59	
3437.10	General Running Costs		5375.53	
912.50	Cleaning/Caretaker/Handyman/Etc		2629.93	
864.97	Activities & Events Costs		1248.23	
2027.66	Electricity		1945.83	
458.48	Water		95.98	
168.86	BT - Telephone rental		422.41	
2554.09	Insurance (Hall & Green)		2952.55	
0.00	Returned & Unpaid Cheques		950.00	
11275.00	Returned Deposits & Cancellations		12525.00	
54.00	Rock Play		72.00	
38797.42	Maintenance Expenses		26803.54	
10.00	Mobile Phone		0.00	
1470.00	Village Green (Trees & Hedge Cutting)		3558.49	
62945.59			58938.87	
-29419.59	Total Receipts Less Payments			-4797.85
				Plus
85261.23	Balance @ 30 September 2020			85261.23
	Balance @ 30 September 2021			80463.38
	Represented by:-			
16998.94	Community Current Account			12194.29
33050.05	Business Premium Account			33053.33
35212.24	Business Premium Account (Contingency)			35215.76
85261.23	Balance @ 30 September 2021			80463.38

Receipts and Payments Carried forward into next accounting period (2021-2022)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	RECEIPTS (£)	PAYMENTS (£)	COMMENT
12/08/2021	D Griffiths - RVH Ex's		372.00	
24/08/2021	D Griffiths - RVH Ex's		13.02	
18/09/2021	Dolly Tub		46.75	
24/09/2021	Hire of the Hall (9 cheques)	2936.88		
27/09/2021	C Marriott - RVH Ex's		40.30	
	Total	2936.88	472.07	

I have examined the Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 30/9/21 and found it is correct according to the Books and Records of Rock Village Hall and the information and explanations given to me.

Peter Bill
Bower Court, Rock, Worcs
Date

P.A.B.L.L.
18th OCTOBER 2021

Building sub-committee report

David Hall reported on the building maintenance team.

The hall has been gradually brought back into use during the last twelve months.

The contract for correcting floor settlement, which involved pumping in foam chemicals to raise the floor and then installing a new wooden floor, ended in March 2020. The one-year maintenance period then commenced and ended in March 2021.

Following that work the Ground Source Energy heating system heat pumps were overhauled by Energy Zone of Cleobury Mortimer. We investigated having a one-year or longer maintenance agreement with the company that has taken over from the original installer (who went into liquidation) but their prices, and more importantly, their call-out time was poorer. Energy Zone being local can respond much quicker, without extensive travelling which suits current thinking on overall environmental issues.

The decking was replaced over a year ago by a slabbed patio and this has now been sealed with a silicone solution which should prevent staining.

Following complaints over the years about poor spoken sound quality in this hall, caused by many hard surfaces at several different angles, we have had acoustic panels on the inclined ceiling to reduce what is known as reverberation time.

Following a legacy to provide lighting down the access road to the hall several attempts have been made to source suitable lighting. The use of solar lighting was investigated but was found to be not reliable in the long term and unsuitable with our growing trees along this route. Provision for a mains cable was made when heating pipes were replaced across the car park and this route can be used to install cables for drive lighting and also for a replacement car park light and for a charging station for electric vehicles. All these proposals will now be investigated further.

To reduce the water ponding in the children's play area land drains have been installed. Although the autumn has been fairly dry, early indications are that the amount of surface water has reduced.

The Building Maintenance Team comprises our Chairman David Griffiths, Richard Hall and myself, supplemented by others with specialist knowledge.

Wildlife Group Report

Bob Marriott presented a report on behalf of the Rock Millennium Wildlife Group:

First our thanks to Katherine Thornton who is leaving us as she is moving away. She has been the driving force behind the wildlife group and we will miss her greatly.

Thanks also the Len Pitman who as well as helping with the wildlife group is the person mainly responsible for organising the maintenance of the millennium green. such as hedge cutting and grass cutting. Without him the millennium green would be a mess.

What about this year?

The flower border down the drive, which was organised by Katherine, was a success this year. The fruit orchard is maturing. We planted 3 new apple trees last year. We leave the grass long in the summer and then cut it short in the autumn. It is a slow process but the grass in the orchard is gradually getting less coarse and this allows more wild flowers to develop.

We had a donation of varied bird boxes from Severn Waste, I think about 8. Len and David Griffiths have put these around the green. Because of light pollution it was decided to put the owl box and kestrel box around the church.

What about the future?

The pond at the back of the hall is a very important part of the biodiversity of the green. Unfortunately we think the pond has sprung a leak. In the summer when the level of the pond goes down we hope to be able to repair the leak.

Emma wants to get the toddler group involved in the green and hopes to build a bug hotel somewhere down near the pond.

Katherine organised for the Worcestershire Wildlife group (Natural Networks) to look at the Biodiversity of The Millennium green and they made various suggestions to improve the biodiversity of the green.

We have already put up more bird boxes and are arranging for another bug hotel on the green. We hope the pond leak will be repaired next year. We have planted a new oak tree down by the hall which we hope in a hundred years' time will replace the old oak tree which is now on the green.

The most difficult suggestion by the Worcestershire Wildlife group is to leave some of the grass on the green longer which increases biodiversity. We are discussing with David Bradley, who cuts the grass on the green, what would be possible.

There were no questions raised about the report.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman, David Griffiths, presented the following report:

We are very lucky in Rock to have this Village Hall and a hard-working committee prepared to take on the challenges of keeping the hall in good condition and providing a space for events to be held.

The early part of this year was very challenging due to COVID and the continual rule changes imposed by the government and we need to recognise the efforts from the committee members involved with Risk Assessments - together with Carol Franklin, our bookings secretary, and Anne Emmings with the correspondence to and from anxious hirers.

For much of the year the hall was closed, but once restrictions were lifted we welcomed back our regular users and weddings which are continuing with strong bookings into 2022. We continue to set aside one weekend per month for local village events either put on by the committee or taken by local residents.

This year we installed acoustic panels to the hall ceiling and following a music event, quiz and from feedback from regular users we believe them to be a big improvement with no further modifications required.

We have installed additional drainage to the children's play area and provided additional storage space to our regular hirers, particularly the Little Acorns children's play group that goes from strength to strength thanks to the efforts of Emma Moore

Throughout the year weekly checks have been carried out by our maintenance team to the defibrillator, play equipment and hall safety equipment; our thanks to them and the contractors and volunteers who maintain the green, hedges and gardens.

We also need to thank Colin and Lynn Link as well as Anne Emmings for their efforts in keeping the hall clean and tidy throughout the year.

Since the defibrillator was installed, Kath Thornton has been the coordinator and point of contact with the Ambulance Authority. We thank Kath for this. She is now leaving the area and we welcome Sally Blowing, who has kindly volunteered to take on this role.

The hall is in excellent condition with no major repairs needed. However, we do need to be aware that with a shingle roof with a limited life span in the future we will need to carry out repairs or replacement, and funds need to be kept aside for this and unexpected issues.

Sid and Elsie Smith bequeathed some monies to install bollard lighting along the drive. We hope to get this completed this spring, together with additional lighting for the car park.

We also intend to try and stop the leakage of water from the wildlife pond.

We continue to put on events for the village, quizzes, concerts, children's parties, bingo and, of course, the annual Rock Show which to date has been organised by Bob and Chris Marriott. Bob and Chris now think it's time for someone else to take on this role, so we are looking for volunteers for this. The committee and helpers, as always, will offer support.

Our thanks to Bob and Chris - this year's show being the most successful for many years.

My job this year as Chairman has been made much easier with such a large committee willing to take on challenges and investigations. I thank them all for their efforts.

We are now looking forward to a year with no worries of bills for building work and can concentrate on providing our community with a space to enjoy.

We are conscious that many local residents are not using the hall and would welcome suggestions of things they would like to see us arrange or support them arranging themselves. So, if you have suggestions speak to one of the committees, send an email or drop a note in the post box at the front of the hall.

There were no questions raised about the report.

The Committee

Len Pitman suggested a vote of thanks for committee members' hard work. This was formally proposed by Jackie Osborn, seconded by Colin Link and passed unanimously by the meeting.

Most members present confirmed that they will continue and this was agreed by the meeting.

Exceptions to the membership were that Bob Marriott tendered his resignation, after many years as an active member. David Elliott has also resigned although is willing to assist with specific tasks. It was agreed to confirm the rest of the committee and to appoint officers to the various roles at the next committee meeting on Monday 29th November.

Future Events

The following events are planned in the coming year (but hopefully others will be added):-

19th November (Fri) – Bingo evening
20th November (Sat) – Sunjay in concert
11th December (Sat) – Children's Christmas party
23rd April 2022 – Country & Western night
22nd May 2022- Slide concert (Slade tribute band)
8th October 2022 – Soul Night

Any other business

There was no other business.

Next year's AGM: The date of next year's AGM will be confirmed in due course.

The formal meeting closed at 7.55 pm and was followed by refreshments and socialising.