

Ellel Village Hall Trust

Annual report and financial statements
for the year ended
31st March 2025

Ellel Village Hall Trust

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Ellel Village Hall Trust

Members of the board and professional advisers

Charity name	Ellel Village Hall Trust
Charity number	225547
Principal office	Ellel Village Hall Main Road Galgate Lancaster LA2 0LQ
Trustees	Mr D Ford Mrs J K Moore Mrs L J Yates Fitzsimons Mr D S Whitaker, Chair Mr N Wilson Ms A Walker
Bankers	NatWest PO Box 17 68 Church Street LANCASTER LA1 1LN
Solicitors	Oglethorpe Sturton and Gillibrand 16 Castle Park LANCASTER LA1 1YG

Ellel Village Hall Trust

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31st March 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charities Trust Deed, the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and reporting by Charities published in 2005.

The Trustees

The Trustees who served the Charity during the period were as follows:

Mrs H R Helme, Chairman, Resigned 30 September 2025

Mr S Booth Esq, Resigned 30 September 2025

Mr D Ford

Mrs J K Moore

Mrs L J Yates Fitzsimons

Mr D S Whitaker

Mr N Wilson

Ms A Walker

Structure, governance and management

The Trust was established in 1919 and substantially revised under a new Trust Deed in 2004, to provide a village hall for local residents.

New trustees are normally appointed or elected each year and serve for one year. The Trust Scheme provides for a minimum of seven trustees, four to be elected. The Trust Committee can increase the number of scheduled organisations, with no maximum prescribed.

Full Trustee meetings are normally held month or so, with a formal agenda and minutes, to discuss all matters relating to the management of the Trust and its finances, and the operation of the village hall, which is its prime responsibility. Sub-committees and ad hoc meetings are held at least weekly in practice.

All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee remuneration was paid in the year. Trustees are required to disclose any relevant interests at the inception of meetings and to withdraw from decisions where a conflict of interest arises.

Risk management

The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and have reviewed those risks and established systems and procedures to manage those risks.

The Trustees consider the major risk to the operation of the charity would be any unforeseen imbalance in our cash flow and a temporary inability to meet our costs. We have taken steps to mitigate this risk by:

- closely monitoring actual costs and income against our annual budget each month
- reducing employment costs by using voluntary services whenever possible
- actively marketing our services at competitive but cost-effective rates, bearing in mind our overall duty to the community and the need for tight credit control in our booking system
- obtaining comprehensive cover against insurable risks
- close involvement of the trustees and their advisers in support of the hall coordinator
- aiming to maintain adequate reserve funds through the forecasting process

Objectives and activities

Under the Governing Scheme the object of the Trust is **“the provision and maintenance of a village hall for use by the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.”**

The area of benefit is “Galgate and Ellel in the parish of Ellel, Lancashire, and the neighbourhood thereof”. Benefit to the residents is therefore paramount in the trust’s objectives and all future planning activities. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission general guidance on Public Benefit when reviewing the charity’s aims and objectives.

Achievements and performance

Since the opening of the new hall in 2013 the hall has become well established in the area and is focused on meeting the requirements of the local community and wider area.

Achievements in 2025 include:

- Secured funding and hosted a family Halloween party – free entry and food for those who attended
- Secured funding and hosted a family pantomime– free entry and food for those who attended

Financial Review

Hall rental income was £52,088 (2024: £50,348). There is also a total of £10,665 in deposits being held for future bookings. This income is not yet recognised in the turnover. We have paid a total of £22,681 in wages costs to staff we have employed from the local community. The hall was in an excellent financial position at the end of the year with surplus funds to add to the reserves ready for the next maintenance programme.

Investment policy and performance

Surplus funds are held with NatWest Bank:

Deposit account which currently provides an interest rate of 1.06% and a 95 Day Notice account which currently provides an interest rate of 3.25%

Reserves policy

The Trustees’ aim to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level to cover three months of unrestricted charitable expenditure, the 2025 requirement is £11,200 which is covered by cash reserves of £43,190. The Trustees are satisfied with this position.

The balance held as restricted funds at the year end was £660,660 (2024: £660,660).

Plans for the future

In March 2025 the hall was informed that a regular long-standing booking was to be cancelled as of mid-April 2025. This booking brought in £9,360 in hall hire a year. Shortly after this the hall then received cancellation of another long-term booking (£1,560 per year). The next 12 months will be spent reviewing all costs and attempting to bring in extra income to ensure the hall remains financially viable. One measure we have decided to progress is to purchase 2nd hand softplay equipment to generate more income from our kids' party bookings.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these statements the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the method and principals of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity.

Approved by the Trustees on 30th September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr D S Whitaker

Chair

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ellel Village Hall Trust

I report on the financial statements of Ellel Village Hall Trust for the year ended 31 March 2025, set out on pages 8 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditor

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Helen Barratt FCA
Hillside, Wallace Lane, Forton, Lancashire, PR3 0BA

30 September 2025

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31st March 2025

	<i>Note</i>	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Incoming resources					
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>					
Voluntary income:					
Grants		-	1,525	1,525	15,200
Donations		303	832	1,135	120
Activities for generating funds:					
Investment income	2	862	-	862	317
<i>Incoming resources from charitable activities</i>	3	56,231	-	56,231	55,712
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total incoming resources		57,396	2,357	59,753	71,349
Resources expended					
<i>Charitable activities</i>	4	44,537	2,357	46,894	72,348
<i>Governance costs</i>	5	3,879	-	3,879	4,879
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total resources expended		48,416	2,357	50,773	77,227
Net incoming resources		8,980	-	8,980	(5,878)
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Reconciliation of Funds					
	12				
Total funds brought forward		31,441	660,660	692,101	692,101
		-----	-----	-----	-----
Total funds carried forward		40,421	660,660	701,801	692,101
		-----	-----	-----	-----

Ellel Village Hall Trust
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2025

	<i>Note</i>	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets – restricted funds	8	662,045		662,045	
Tangible assets – unrestricted funds	9	4,473		7,614	
		-----		-----	
			666,518		669,659
Current assets					
Stock		100		100	
Accrued income	10	160		125	
Prepayments		2,673		2,422	
Trade debtors		4,322		9,835	
Cash at bank		43,190		27,501	
		-----		-----	
		50,445			39,983
Liabilities					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11		(15,882)		(17,541)
			-----		-----
Net current assets			34,563		22,442
			-----		-----
Net assets			701,081		692,101
			-----		-----
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	12		660,660		660,660
Unrestricted income funds			40,421		31,441
			-----		-----
			701,081		692,101
			-----		-----

Approved by the trustees on 30 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr D S Whitaker
Chair

Ellel Village Hall Trust

Notes to the accounts

1) Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005)', issued in March 2005, applicable accounting Standards and the Charities Act 2011.

b) Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 12.

c) Incoming resource

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received and the monetary value of the incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

d) Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as resources expended as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

e) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

f) Allocation of overhead and support costs

Overhead and support costs are minimal and of an administrative nature only. Support and overhead costs are allocated to governance.

g) Costs of generating funds

The costs of generating funds relate to print and publication costs for local community promotions.

h) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities relate to expenses incurred in the running and maintenance of the hall and providing community activities. Charitable activities include staffing costs.

i) Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and legal fees together with overhead and support costs.

j) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets are capitalised and valued at historic cost. Depreciation is charged on furniture, fixtures, fittings and equipment which is written off on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life of four years. Depreciation on solar panels is written off on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful life of ten years.

1) Accounting policies (continued)

k) Stock

Stock held comprise cleaning materials. It is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

l) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

2) Investment income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest on cash deposits	862	317
	-----	-----

3) Incoming resources from charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Hire of the village hall	52,088	50,348
Solar panel income	1,884	2,082
Sale of refreshments	2,259	3,282
	-----	-----
	56,231	55,712
	-----	-----

4) Analysis of charitable activities expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	£	Restricted funds	£	2025	2024
					£	£
Running costs of the village hall:						
Utilities and rates	8,873		-		8,873	9,247
Other running costs	7,868		-		7,868	32,144
Provision of facilities	65		-		65	2,559
Staff costs	22,181		500		22,681	23,107
Community Engagement	616		1,857		2,473	
Advertising and web costs	485		-		485	284
Depreciation of fixed assets	4,449		-		4,449	5,007
	-----		-----		-----	-----
	44,537		2,357		46,894	72,348
	-----		-----		-----	-----

5) Analysis of governance costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Administration costs	3,574	4,539
Professional fees	305	340
	-----	-----
	3,879	4,879
	-----	-----

6) Analysis of staff costs

Staff costs relate to the management of the hall and are charged to charitable activities. The trustees receive no remuneration for their services and other staffing services are provided on a voluntary basis by the local community as required.

7) Auditor's remuneration

No audit fees were payable in the year.

8) Tangible fixed assets- restricted funds

	Equipment £	Furniture £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Buildings £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	12,978	9,628	7,134	662,045	691,785
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 March 2025	12,978	9,628	7,134	662,045	691,785
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	12,978	9,628	7,134	-	29,740
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-	-
Released on disposal	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 31 March 2025	12,978	9,628	7,134	-	29,740
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-	662,045	662,045
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 1 April 2024	-	-	-	662,045	662,045
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

9) Tangible fixed assets- unrestricted funds

	Equipment £	Furniture £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Buildings £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2024	17,929	252	5,656	340	24,177
Additions	334	-	974	-	1,308
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	18,263	252	6,630	340	25,485
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2024	11,291	252	5,020	-	16,563
Charge for the year	3,683	-	766	-	4,449
Released on disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	14,974	252	5,786	-	21,012
Net book value					
At 31 March 2025	3,289	-	844	340	4,473
At 1 April 2024	6,638	-	636	340	7,614

10) Analysis of accrued income

	2025 £	2024 £
Solar panel income	160	125

11) Analysis of current liabilities

	2025 £	2024 £
Finance lease	-	3,305
Trade creditors	2,722	1,607
Deferred income	10,665	10,143
Accruals	2,495	2,486
	15,882	17,541

12) Analysis of charitable funds

Analysis of fund movements	Balance at the start of the year £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at the end of the year £
a) Restricted fund: Building	660,660	2,357	(2,357)	-	660,660
b) Unrestricted fund	31,441	57,396	(48,416)	-	40,421
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	692,101	59,753	(50,773)	-	701,081
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

a) The Building appeal (restricted fund) was established in 2010 to raise funds to replace the Ellet Village Hall with a new, modern facility based in the centre of the community playing fields.

b) The unrestricted funds are available to be spent for any of the purposes of the charity.