

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - AGM 14th August 2025

It has been a relatively quiet period since the last AGM, however, the committee have been busy with maintenance issues and improvements to ensure that the hall remains a facility that the village can be proud of.

Early in 2025 four external CCTV cameras were installed to provide security to the building and to give confidence to Committee Duty Officers having to attend the hall alone, sometimes late into the evening. It also allows the monitoring of the grounds to identify any unwarranted presence or activities. During the same period, the main hall and stage area flooring was completely refurbished which improved its appearance and provided extra surface protection. We are grateful to Councillor Nicky Gribble for the contribution she made from her ward fund towards the cost of both of these projects.

Presently the committee are in the process of trying to convince BT to provide a full fibre WiFi service to the hall. This will involve a lot of engineering works since the hall has never had a landline service and we are hoping the costs to the hall will be minimal. There will be additional monthly costs for the WiFi service but it will allow remote control of the CCTV and Solar Panel systems as well as giving us the ability to control any proposed upgraded hall heating system.

We are actively progressing a kitchen extension project to provide more storage and preparation space as well as incorporating the mower shed into the shell of the building. The Parish Council have generously donated £3000 towards the cost of contracting an architect to draw up plans for planning permission. Once we have planning permission we will be able to investigate the availability of grants towards the building costs.

The Management Committee have commenced the process of formally amending the charity status of the village hall to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This has several advantages in the administration of the day to day affairs of the hall but importantly, removes personal liability from individual trustees for debts or liabilities of the hall. It is a protracted exercise and will include the transfer of assets and property to the new organisation. Our thanks go to Ebb Smith for all the work she has put into the research and strategy that have got us to the application stage.

The Hawthorne whips planted at the beginning of 2023 after the fire in 2022 are doing well and are managing to compete with the weeds encroaching from the neighbouring field. Another year should see them blocking out the view of the fencing.

Increased day to day maintenance and running costs, together with the hall improvements, have put pressure on the hall's finances but the reduced electricity costs, due to the payback from the solar panels, has helped to ensure that the hall maintains a healthy contingency reserve but more about that from our Treasurer.

The Hallmaster online booking system is working well and is appreciated by our users. We are, as ever, grateful to Mike Hudson for being our liaison man with Hallmaster and for fighting our corner in getting tweaks and improvement introduced into the system.

Our association with the North Beds Village Hall Network is proving a useful source of information and ideas. The 3 monthly meetings are a good means of finding out what is happening at other halls and for discussing any problems particular halls may be experiencing.

Two fundraising events were held during the past year, a Race Night and Quiz Evening, both of which were well attended and raised much needed money for the hall and for nominated charities. It is intended to repeat these later this year. We will have to think about more fund raising events if we are to pursue any major improvement projects.

We have welcomed a new committee member in Clive Dean who is keen to get involved with the day to day management of the hall. This will make the shared load of the committee a little easier to carry and introduce some new eyes to the way the hall is run.

In common with most charitable bodies we rely on the goodwill of the community to help out and we are grateful for the volunteers who give their time to cut the hall grass and keep the grounds looking so nice. It is a big selling point for the hall that it has such nice surroundings and a child friendly area for play.

The village owes a debt of thanks to Phil Mullis and Ebb Smith who, as Treasurer and Secretary respectively, put in so much time in carrying out their duties.

Finally, I wish to sincerely thank all the serving committee for the time and effort they have put in to keep the hall operational and in a condition that the village can be proud of and also for their help and advice to me over the past year. It has been, and I am sure will continue to be, an interesting and rewarding time.

Thank you.

David Bottomley

Chair – Ravensden Village hall

Ravensden Village Hall
Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Hire of Hall	11,872	9,835
Surplus on events	763	20
Grants for floor refurbishment and CCTV	4,252	-
Grants for solar panels and LED lights	10,628	-
Donation	100	-
	<u>27,615</u>	<u>9,855</u>
Expenditure		
Floor refurbishment and CCTV	4,254	
Solar panels and LED lighting	21,256	
Cleaning costs (including extra bin hire and window cleaning)	1,629	1,618
Electricity	1,020	2,675
Water	333	533
Insurance	1,580	1,538
Repairs, renewals, maintenance, stationery	3,656	3,424
Legal fees re Title deeds	-	914
Redecorating Hall	-	5,469
Drain survey and new liner	-	1,705
Online booking system	253	227
Web-site costs	116	8
Performing Rights fees (2 years in 2025)	214	-
Donations	-	97
Data protection registration	35	-
	<u>34,346</u>	<u>18,208</u>
Net income/(Expenditure)	(6,732)	(8,354)
Funds brought forward	23,281	31,635
Funds carried forward	<u>16,550</u>	<u>23,281</u>

These financial statements are approved on

12/8/2025

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Chair D Bottomley
 Treasurer PP Mullis
 Secretary E Smith

Ravensden Village Hall
Balance sheet
At 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
Bank account	15,973	22,781
Prepayments	976	800
	<u>16,950</u>	<u>23,581</u>
Accruals	-	-
Deposits held from hirers	400	300
Net Assets	<u>16,550</u>	<u>23,281</u>
Funds in hand	16,550	23,281
	<u>16,550</u>	<u>23,281</u>

30th July 2025

Our Ref: MAB

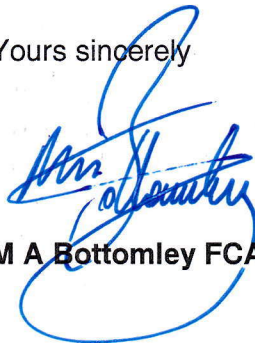
To The Committee of Ravensden Village Hall

Dear Sirs

Accountants certificate – Ravensden Village Hall

Without carrying out an audit and without interrogating the Hall's booking system, I have checked the attached financial statements of Ravensden Village Hall to the underlying records made available to me, and I confirm that the financial statements are a true and fair reflection of those records and accurately reflect the transactions as recorded.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M A Bottomley', is written over a circular blue ink stamp or seal.

M A Bottomley FCA – Chartered Accountant