



**CHARITY COMMISSION**  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 1 April 2023 To 31 March 2024

Charity name: Hardingstone Village Hall Association (HVHA)

Charity registration number: 270767

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<b>a) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Hardingstone and surrounding area. This benefit will be the provision of opportunities for leisure, social, recreational, educational and any other activities that enhance the lives of those living in the area.</b>  <b>b) To provide a community centre in Hardingstone and to manage and maintain the Centre for activities promoted by the Association in furtherance of the objectives in a) above.</b>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<b>Letting the premises for social, well-being and educational purposes; being a polling station; one-off lettings to members of the community for parties and celebrations and local organisations for fundraising events, dramatics productions, craft fairs etc.</b> <b>Letting the premises on a regular schedule to hirers providing wellbeing, social or educational activities.</b> <b>Maintaining the landmark Victorian building in the centre of the village as a used space</b>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<b>Yes</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<b>The Association does not make any grants or monetary social benefits.</b>

Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<b>The Association is run by volunteers. The premises are managed by a paid manager. Commercial contractors provide maintenance services.</b>
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<b>The Hall is in a good state of repair; Our Hirers provide a range of activities for the local and wider community; The Hall is a polling station when required.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	<p><b>Objective- To increase Lettings- Post-Covid, the lettings are reduced, regular activities by about 1/3 of previous level and one-off events by about ½</b></p> <p><b>Lettings have increased including two new regular hirers but have not returned to pre-Covid levels. This is in common with local and national village halls.</b></p> <p><b>Objective- Upgrade garden and Basement to be a separate let- Garden and fabric of Basement improved; basement conversion to toilet and kitchenette stopped due to contraction of market for parties/events (target market), limitations of site and escalating building costs.</b></p> <p><b>Objective- to encourage interest in potential new trustees, especially for officer posts. (Chairman retiring at next AGM and treasurer at the following AGM)</b></p> <p><b>Parish Council considered involvement</b></p>
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		<p>but declined.</p> <p><b>Non-profit making organisation running several local Halls made representation but would have curtailed the availibilty and servicing of the Hall.</b></p> <p><b>One of our hirers came forward with an offer for sevaral of their members to stand for election for trustees and officers to safegard the Hall and thus their use of it.</b></p>
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	<b>No fundraising undertaken in the period</b>
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	<b>N/A</b>
Other		<p>Chairmans Report 2024.</p> <p>Good evening, everyone and thank you for coming.</p> <p>As I sit down to write my final report, I have taken a few moments to look back on my time at the Village Hall. I feel proud of what we as a committee have achieved over the years, new toilet facility in the friend's room refurbishment of the old gents' toilets gazebos in the garden new boilers Wi-Fi new energy efficient lighting to name a few. None of this happens without hard work planning and careful financial control most of this achieved from our own funds. So well done to those people that made this happen.</p> <p>Over the past few years, it has been apparent that we needed to reevaluate the way the hall operates so with this in mind over the last 12months we have explored various options by approaching different organisations with view to either take control of the Village Hall or to assist in helping us moving forward.</p> <p>Firstly, we approached Hardingstone Parish Council as the main governing body of the village to see if they were willing to help,</p> <p>we had several meetings with councillors to talk over how they could help either with funding or manpower. The face-to-face meetings went well with various ideas being discussed which the representatives</p>

	<p>of the council took back to the full council for further discussion.</p> <p>The conclusion that the parish council came to was that why it would be a loss to the village if the hall was to closed</p> <p>in their minds the hall is not financially viable, and they would be pouring good money after bad if they were to offer the hall any credible financial help.</p> <p>It was suggested that we apply for a general funding grant which we did resulting in a very disappointing offer of £200.00 which in my opinion shows how little regard or concern they have for what is probably one of the largest assets of the village. (ask any Estate agent what people are looking for when moving to a village). Having been turned down by our own parish council we sort further external options and approached an organisation called community spaces who run various community facilities around the town and again we had a meeting with them to discuss how they could help with taking the hall forward. we listened to what they had to say and discussed what they could offer.</p> <p>the committee felt that at the present time they are not a good fit for the hall or our users.</p> <p>The conclusion of these various options is that we should for the present continue to run hall in its current format and look for new committee members who can bring new and fresh ideas to take the hall forward.</p> <p>I am pleased to say that we have offers from various sources to join the committee and having had several meetings with them feel that I am leaving the hall in good hands.</p> <p>It only leaves me to offer my thanks to a very dedicated small team who have worked hard to keep the hall going I have enjoyed working with you are wish you the best for the future.</p> <p>Paul Weatherley retiring Chairman</p> <p><b><u>FACILITIES MANAGER</u></b> <b><u>REPORT</u></b></p> <p>This year of April 2023 – March 2024 has been challenging with all high inflation effecting every aspect of running our hall.</p>
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		<p>Thankfully we have maintained most of our regular bookers, we have lost Bouverie WI after 40 years, but the NCT group have returned after a couple of years break.</p> <p><b>Our ongoing tests and maintenance contracts have been completed; -</b></p> <p>Fire Alarm and Extinguishers, Rodent Control, Garden upkeep, building electric, Pat testing, Boiler and cooker service, and checks on the Door entry system. Plus, the floor cleaning machine has been services and repairs carried out.</p> <p>Our cleaning contractor has been with us for 12 months now and has proved to be helpful and an asset to the hall. We recently had to drop some of their hours due to finances, so we are asking all our regular users to be vigilant with their checks and leaving everywhere tidy and clean.</p> <p><b>General maintenance</b> of the building takes a lot of time and money for the general upkeep we have a very helpful maintenance man, with the multi-use of our building there is always something needing attention.</p> <p>We have managed to get the gents toilet painted this year, but finances have not allowed any big projects. We have shelved the garden project, but we will need to get the main hall floor sorted out over the next 12 months. The small part of the room the laminate is coming up and the larger half needs the wood sanding, sealing and polishing.</p> <p><u>Projects/Maintenance/Equipment required for the future – in order of priority and subject to funding.</u></p> <p>Main hall floor</p> <p>Windows in the main hall may need the opening sections replacing as they no longer seal/ close or lock properly</p> <p><b>My thanks go to the committee for their</b></p>
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**support in helping me do the best I can for the building and to all our users, we need you as much as you need us.**

**Gaynor Weatherley -  
Manager**

TREASURER’S REPORT TO HARDINGSTONE  
VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 12 JUNE 2024

The Accounts for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 are in the same format as previous accounts showing total Income and Expenditure by activities and the year’s Trading Profit/Loss. The Reserves brought forward from the previous year less the trading loss equals the monetary funds held by the Association. There have been no grants and only small donations received this year. The accounts have been reviewed and signed by an Independent Examiner, Mr Andrew Mackay. He has stated verbally that there were no anomalies or matters of concern in the accounts.

There is a Trading Loss of £10,000, a £1,000 more than the loss made last year. Hardingstone Village Hall has been trading at an increasing loss since the Covid pandemic; this is unsustainable. Letting the Hall is the only source of income and even when the Hall was hired at near full capacity only a small profit was made. Lettings have not recovered to the levels before the Covid pandemic whereas costs have risen, especially energy costs. This has been a major concern of the management committee and new strategies will be tried during the coming year.

In the autumn of 2022 it was estimated that it cost £12 per hired hour to operate the Hall. By the end of 2023 this had risen to £17, this is not including any planned or unexpected maintenance or equipment replacement. The hire fee for both rooms was raised in April to £15 per hour (this is the rate currently charged at smaller and less well equipped local Halls)

		<p>and at that time it was warned that rates would need to rise to at least £17 per hour in September. The committee have decided that on September 1 2024 the hire rates will need to be increased to Richard Gibbs Room to £17.50ph and the Friends Room to £16.50ph from September, with a proviso that a further review may be necessary in 2025.</p> <p>The trading balance will be monitored through the coming year and rates will be re considered at the beginning of 2025. The committee's aim is to keep the rates as low as possible whilst ensuring the Hall remains viable and open for business.</p> <p>The fee for use of the main kitchen will not be payable for light use, such as drinks refreshment, and will remain at £2.50 per session for extensive use such as cooking.</p> <p>We ask the AGM to ratify these rates.</p> <p>I ask the AGM to accept the Accounts for the year 2023-24.</p> <p>The reserves fund is still £5,000 below the requirements of the reserves policy however there is also the remaining £8,000 of the Covid recovery grants in hand.</p> <p>The constitution of the Association will need major updating before the transfer of the lease holding can be made to the Charities Commission. This will be a project for the coming year.</p> <p>Val Brambley Treasurer HVHA</p>
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## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<b>£29,000 Funds carried forward after £10,000 Trading Loss. Over the past 5 years the Hall has been trading at a loss; this was an increased loss on previous years.</b>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<b>Reserves for contingencies, especially unforeseen maintenance of an old building. Policy to hold £20,000</b>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	<b>at present £15,000 Reserve, there is also a residue of £8,000 of the Business Continuation (post-Covid) grants which is held separately.</b>
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	<b>N/A</b>
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	<b>No funds are in deficit.</b>
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	<b>Continuing Trading Losses cannot be funded at the current level for more than 2 more years. Recruiting trustees and officers is difficult-appeals have been made to our Parish Council (negative response) and our hirers (potential positive response)</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<b>Lettings are the source of funding; despite efforts, this has not been greatly increased and the Hall is running at a Trading Loss.</b>  <b>HVHA applies each year to the Parish Council for funding support; this year they have awarded £200, the same as they have awarded other village groups.</b>  <b>HVHA does not meet the criteria for many national and local sources of funding.</b>  <b>The Garfield Weston Foundation awarded a £5,000 grant towards the upgrading of the garden and basement.</b>
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	<b>N/A</b>
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<b>Maintaining an old building in a conservation area can bring unexpected expenses.</b> <b>Our hirers are very loyal and appreciate the standard of accommodation we offer however, the loss of a major hirer would put the Hall's viability in jeopardy</b>

		<p><b>A rapid escalation in running cost could not be met by lettings at the market value</b></p> <p><b>Lack of volunteer trustees to meet the requirements of the Constitution. New interest expressed by a hirer group could bring new trustees, skills and ideas.</b></p>
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	<b>Constitution</b>
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>Unincorporated Association</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	<b>Constitution</b> <b>The Association will form a Management Committee of up to 11 people ; nominated by the Holding Trustees, individual (community) and organisation(hirers) representative members. Those members of the Association present at the AGM will vote on nominations, elect a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, or the Management Committee [can] be responsible for electing these from its body.</b>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	<b>A company run by a trustee (current Chair) tenders for certain maintenance projects.</b>  <b>The current Chair is the spouse of the Manager (employee of HVHA)</b>
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Hardingstone Village Hall Association
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	270767
Charity's principal address	Hardingstone Village Hall

	High Street Hardingstone Noirthampton NN4 6DA

## Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Paul Weatherley	Chair		
2	Valerie Brambley	Treasurer		
3	John Brooks			
4	Lucy Driscoll			
5	Lesley Johnson			
6	William LLoyd			
7	Marianne Martin			
8	Leslie Pace		1/4/2023 to 7/11/2023	
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10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

## Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

## Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
Norman Pope		
Rev Canon Beverley Hollins		

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

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Full name(s)

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Position (eg Secretary,  
Chair, etc)

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Date

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# HARDINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS April 2023 to 31 March 2024

2022-23 £	Co-op Curr Acc £	Lloyds £	Nationwid e £	Cash income £	Written Off £	31-03-24 £
<u>Income</u>						
33,252.56 Lettings	32,092.10					32,092.10
86.24 Bank Interest	0.00		295.15			295.15
0.00 Advertising fees	0.00					0.00
185.00 Donations	202.00					202.00
375.00 Donations to Def	0.00					0.00
2,152.00 Deposits retained	3,820.00					3,820.00
40.09 Key Deposits	40.00					40.00
5,000.00 Grants	0.00					0.00
63.26 Payroll credit rep	0.00					0.00
187.20 Cancelled Trainin	0.00					0.00
0.00 Fund Raising	0.00					0.00
1,001.02 Payment in error	0.00					0.00
Damage repair cc	171.00					171.00
Refunded purcha	32.00					32.00
						0.00
<b>42,342.37 TOTAL</b>	<b>£36,357.10</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£295.15</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£36,652.25</b>
£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£	£	£	£	£
-18,801.67 Salaries and pens	-19,118.42					-19,118.42
-3,004.40 Grounds-	-503.75					-503.75
-14,242.58 Premises	-9,136.51					-9,136.51
0.00 Transfer Curr. A/	0.00					0.00
-3,180.88 Cleaning and Cle	-5,136.85					-5,136.85
-2,982.93 Gas	-3,932.06					-3,932.06
-1,431.32 Electricity	-1,293.98					-1,293.98
-595.30 Water Rates	-585.64					-585.64
-41.64 Rates	-108.80					-108.80
-868.11 Communications	-1,021.62					-1,021.62
-51.04 Stationery, Posta	-98.40					-98.40
-474.64 Insurance	-548.12					-548.12
-61.97 Subscriptions/Af	-190.88					-190.88
-869.90 Equipment	-141.96					-141.96
-1,029.20 Waste disposal	-1,127.92					-1,127.92
0.00 CRB checks	0.00					0.00
-817.55 Lottery & Music	-390.35					-390.35
-25.00 Defibrillator	0.00					0.00
-187.20 Staff and commit	0.00					0.00
-110.80 Advertising	-30.00					-30.00
-2,330.00 Returned deposit	-3,225.00					-3,225.00
-115.00 Annual accounts	-115.00					-115.00
-40.00 Key Deposit retu	-80.00					-80.00
-46.81 Miscellaneous	0.00					0.00
-130.00 Corrections, over	0.00					0.00
0.00 Difference written off						0.00
<b>-£51,437.94 TOTAL</b>	<b>£46,785.26</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£46,785.26</b>

**-£9,095.57 Trading Loss being excess of Expenditure over Income**

**£10,133.01**



# HARDINGSTONE VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION - BALANCE SHEET AT 31 March 2024

## Statement of assets and liabilities at 31.03.2024

	£	£
48,092.38 Reserves & accumulated profits b/f	39,355.81	
-9,095.57 Trading Balance for the year	-10,133.01	
<b>£38,996.81 TOTAL</b>	<b>£29,222.80</b>	

### Represented by:-

#### Bank balances as at 31-03-2024

15,552.54 Nationwide Business Savings Account	15,847.69	
12,354.09 Lloyds TSB Business Call a/c	9,354.09	
11,440.85 Co-Op Community Account	4,012.69	
8.33 Cash in hand	8.33	
<b>£39,355.81 TOTAL</b>	<b>£29,222.80</b>	
-£359.00 Key deposit held against key return	319.00	
<b>£38,996.81 TOTAL Available Funds</b>	<b>£28,903.80</b>	

### Represented as follows:-

#### Lloyds TSB "Deposits" and Covid Fund

Covid Recovery grants residue	8,328.89
Deposits held for entrance keys pending refund on	319.00
De-fibrillator donations for running costs	706.20
<b>Closing Balance 31.3.2024</b>	<b>9,354.09</b>

#### Nationwide Business Savings Account

This is made up as follows:

Opening Balance	15,552.54
Transfer to Co-op Current Account	0.00
Interest Earned	295.15
<b>Closing Balance 31.3.2024</b>	<b>15,847.69</b>

#### CO OP Bank

Opening Balance	11,440.85
Transfers from other accounts	3,000.00
Transfer from Nationwide Business Savings Account	0.00
Income	36,357.10
Expenditure	46,785.26
<b>Closing Balance 31.3.2024</b>	<b>4,012.69</b>

Cash in Hand	8.33
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I have reviewed the the financial statements for 31.3.2024.  
I have examined the underlying records and confirm that these financial statements  
are a correct representation of the underlying accounts

Andrew Mackay

24.5.2024

Report of  
VERBAL REPORT FROM INDEPENDENT ASSESSOR  
MR A. MACKAY

Mr Andrew Mackay reported verbally on 24 May 2024 that he had found no anomalies or issue with the accounts and that in his opinion they were a true reflection of Hardingstone Village Hall's finances during the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

His signature on the accounts summary confirmed this opinion.  
Reported to Val Brambley, Treasurer