

Registered Charity No: 305326

**STONE CROSS MEMORIAL HALL
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**



STONE CROSS MEMORIAL HALL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Charity Information	1
Report of the Trustees'	2 - 4
Accountants' Report	5
Statement of Receipts and Payments	6
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	7
Notes to the Financial Statements	8

CHARITY INFORMATION

<u>Address</u>	Stone Cross Memorial Hall Dittons Road Stone Cross BN24 5EL
<u>Charity number</u>	305326
<u>Charity trustees</u>	Mrs P Britton Mr G Baker Mrs S Beck Mr J Blaker
<u>Bankers</u>	HSBC 94 Terminus Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 3ND
<u>Accountant</u>	Caladine Limited Chartered Certified Accountants Chantry House 22 Upperton Road Eastbourne East Sussex BN21 1BF

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

1 Constitution

The charity was formed by its governing document on 11 October 1963 amended by resolution dated 10 October 2016, and registered as a charitable trust on 22 October 1963.

2 Objectives and activities

The object of the charity is the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Westham, Hankham, and the surrounding neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, political, religious, or other opinions.

The hall is provided particularly for meetings, lectures, classes, and other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for those inhabitants.

The charity continues to have due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, ensuring:

1. All community events are open to the general public where reasonably possible.
2. Hire and use of the hall align with the charity's objectives.
3. Hire charges balance affordability for users with the need to sustain operations.
4. Facilities remain accessible to all members of the community, including those with disabilities.

3 Organisational structure

The charity is managed by a committee of up to fifteen trustees who are responsible for the strategic direction, governance, and oversight of the charity's operations.

4 The Trustees

The charity is managed by a committee of up to fifteen trustees consisting of: up to eight trustees elected at the Annual General Meeting, up to five trustees appointed by the main user-groups, and up to two co-opted trustees as needed during the year.

The trustees that served during the year were:

Mrs P Britton
Mr G Baker
Mrs S Beck
Mr J Blaker

5 Review of activities

During 2024, Stone Cross Memorial Hall continued to serve as an essential facility for the local community, providing a welcoming and affordable venue for social, educational, and recreational events. The trustees remained committed to maintaining the hall as a safe, accessible, and vibrant community space.

Key activities and developments in the year included:

- Major refurbishment projects: The hall underwent significant maintenance, including a replacement of the main hall floor and installation of new fire doors, supported by grants from the National Lottery and the Chalk Cliff Trust.

Trustees' Report (continued)

- Increased community use: Hire income rose to £28,233 (2023: £24,390), reflecting strong post-pandemic recovery and consistent engagement by local groups such as Brownies, theatre clubs, and fitness classes.
- Operational improvements: Trustees continued reviewing management and policy documents to ensure compliance with health, safety, and safeguarding legislation.
- Sustainability measures: Energy use and supplier contracts were reviewed, resulting in reduced gas and electricity costs compared to 2023.
- Volunteer engagement: Trustees and local volunteers contributed many hours to maintenance, cleaning oversight, and fundraising activities, reinforcing the hall's community-run ethos.

Despite inflationary pressures and higher maintenance expenditure, the charity maintained a healthy level of service delivery and community benefit throughout the year.

6 Public benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty set out in section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The hall's activities directly advance the charity's objectives by providing accessible facilities and supporting social cohesion, wellbeing, and lifelong learning for residents of Westham, Hankham, and surrounding areas.

7 Review of financial position

For the financial year ending 31 December 2024, the charity reported total income of £50,431 (2023: £24,429) and total expenditure of £45,855 (2023: £41,157), resulting in a net surplus of £4,576 (2023: £16,728 deficit).

(notably the new floor and fire safety upgrades) and consultancy fees for grant applications. Utility costs fell sharply, reflecting successful renegotiation of energy tariffs.

• Reserves and liquidity:

- Total cash reserves increased to £13,899 (2023: £9,323), reflecting careful cash management and the receipt of restricted grant income pending project completion.
- The charity's accumulated funds at year-end stood at £4,268 (2023: £8,919).
- The long-term Acre Loan was fully repaid in 2024, reducing liabilities and improving financial resilience.
- The charity had to use money from the reserves fund in the year to help complete the floor refurbishment, so the reserves were below our policy levels and focus is now on building this back to acceptable levels.

- Going Concern: The trustees consider the charity a going concern. The hall maintains sufficient liquid assets to meet short-term commitments and continues to attract regular bookings and community support.

The Trustees recognise the importance of maintaining an adequate level of unrestricted reserves to safeguard operations against unforeseen costs and will continue to review income generation opportunities and cost efficiencies.

8 Risk management

The trustees regularly review risks relating to health and safety, financial management, and compliance.

Key risk mitigations include:

- Regular maintenance and safety inspections of the premises.
- Financial oversight through monthly reporting and dual-authorised payments.

Trustees' Report (continued)

9 Reserves

The charity holds three designated banking accounts:

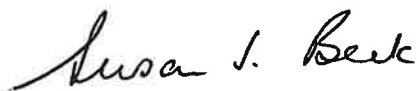
- a) an operational account - for day-to-day income and expenditure.
- b) a fundraising account - for improvements and major maintenance projects.
- c) a reserves account - for emergencies or significant unforeseen costs.

Target balances:

- Operational: minimum of 3 months' expenditure, maximum of 6 months.
- Fundraising: variable, aligned to planned capital projects.
- Reserves: minimum of £10,000 to ensure operational continuity in case of major issues or loss of income.

2. The minimum and maximum balance in each account shall be as follows:

- a) for the operational account, a minimum of three month's and a maximum of six month's expenditure,
- b) for the fundraising account, no minimum and a maximum of the capital maintenance and improvement costs identified in the business plan,
- c) for the reserves account, a minimum amount of £10,000.



Sue Beck
Trustee

Date:

29-10-2025.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Stone Cross Memorial Hall

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Stone Cross Memorial Hall for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 5 to 7.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



J R Caladine FCCA
Caladine Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Chantry House, 22 Upperton Road
Eastbourne, BN21 1BF

Date: 30 October 2025

STONE CROSS MEMORIAL HALL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Page 6

Receipts and Payment Account

	2024	2023
	£	£
Receipts		
Hall Hire	28,233	24,299
Bank Interest	204	130
Grants and Donations	21,994	-
Total receipts	50,431	24,429
Payments		
Hall deposits refunds	-	400
Caretaker's wages	8,603	8,567
Tax and National Insurance	1,765	909
Electricity	1,645	3,910
Gas	4,114	10,970
Utility Membership Fee	-	22
Janitorial Expenses	1,678	1,591
Advertising/ Promotional	61	-
Insurances	1,151	1,123
Licences	285	285
Accountants/Independent Examination Fee	510	510
Bookkeeping	3,120	3,120
Consultancy Fees	2,200	-
Bookings Clerk	245	135
Business Rates	156	146
Waste Services	1,266	1,212
Telephone	327	320
Fire/Security/Electrical Safety Costs	326	332
Water	620	544
Printing, Postage and Stationery	2	2
General Repairs, Renewal and Maintenance	16,088	4,412
Sundry Expenses	18	-
Paypal Fees	151	87
Bank Charges	71	71
Subscriptions	120	120
Purchase of fixed asset	149	-
	44,670	38,788
Loan Repayments	1,185	2,369
Total payments	45,855	41,157
Net receipts/ (payments)	4,576	(16,728)
Cash funds brought forward 1 January 2024	9,323	26,051
Cash funds carried forward 31 December 2024	13,899	9,323

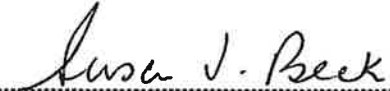
STONE CROSS MEMORIAL HALL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Page 7

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	2024	2023
	£	£
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash at Bank and in hand -		
Current Account 1138	1,472	3,174
Deposit Account 3816	4,013	5,751
Fundraising Account 8279	7,634	-
PayPal	780	397
	<u>13,899</u>	<u>9,322</u>
Debtors		
Trade Debtors	1,738	2,659
Prepayments	567	558
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>2,305</u>	<u>3,217</u>
Assets retained for Charities own use		
Fixtures & Fittings	119	-
Machinery & Equipment	-	-
	<u>119</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
<u>Creditors</u>		
Trade Creditors	2,052	1,364
Hall fees and deposits received in advanced	400	200
Accruals	9,198	555
Other Creditors	405	324
Acre Loan	-	1,177
	<u>12,055</u>	<u>3,620</u>

Approved by the Trustees on



Sue Beck
Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared as a Receipts and Payments account in accordance with section 133 of the Charities Act 2011.

Funds

General funds represent monies received that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for applications on the general purposes of the charity.

2. Related parties transactions

Payments of £1,500 (2023: £1,149) were made of Geoff Baker (Trustee) for maintenance work as agreed with the Charity Commission.

3. Acre Loan (Action with Communities in Rural England)

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Acre Loan	-	1,177
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,177</u>

The original loan was received in October 2009 at 2.43% interest with the first payment being in January 2010. An additional new loan of £15,000 was received in May of 2016 with repayments to be paid quarterly over the next 8 years with the first payment on the 15 August 2016. The interest is attributed at the end of the quarter with an interest rate of 1.81%.

Loan repayment issues

The repayments should have been £572.70 per quarter from 15 August 2016, however Acre took incorrect payments. Acre were supposed to adjust the 2017 repayments but more incorrect payments were taken. Error was corrected in May 2018 and repayment increased to £592.30 to make up for the shortfall in payments taken for 15 months.