Loders Village Hall

Report to Loders Parish Council - Year Ending 31 March 2024

The objectives of the Loders Village Hall Charity as stated in the constitution are: "*To provide and maintain a village hall without distinction of political, religious or other opinion, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation*."

The Village Hall Committee is pleased to report that the Hall continues to be used by a wide range of clubs, organisations, members of the public and businesses for a variety of purposes. In 2023-24, there was a continued increase in hire for fund raising events, private parties, and business activities. Also, the committee, with the understanding and cooperation of several of our regular hirers, was able to help Loders School in its time of need.

In response to the loss of use of a classroom due to tornado damage to the School, the Village Hall was made available for four afternoons a week for school activities. This affected several regular hirers who, without exception, helpfully agreed to rearrange their sessions to accommodate the change.

Overall, bookings remained at a healthy level. With the unexpected income from the School (via its insurers), the income generated in the year exceeded £13.5k, the highest so far. (NB, the figures quoted in this report are draft and not audited).

The remaining income of some £7k arose from interest, donations, and feed in tariff from the solar panels. The final interest figures are still awaited.

Expenditure covered routine items; caretaking, repairs and maintenance, hall supplies, licences, insurance, internet, electricity, gas, and water. In addition, there were the replacement and renewal projects; remedial works on the replacement doors and windows and the removal of the sycamore trees on the northern boundary. The total cost of all these amounted to around £11k, resulting in a healthy surplus. However, much of this is already ring-fenced for projects in the current and future financial years.

Regarding the replacement windows and doors, it was due to guidance and recommendations of the Neighbourhood Plan that wooden windows were chosen instead of UPVC. The requirement for planning permission for UPCV, the cost of the application, the likelihood of it being refused and the additional time going through the process resulted in the choice of timber. In the event the wooden replacements proved to be not fit for purpose. We hope that other public buildings would not have to go through the problems that we have experienced.

The Village Hall is now almost 25 years old. The need to maintain and renew as necessary has been recognised and acted upon for a number of years. Various replacement, renewal and improvement projects have been identified and these are reviewed, updated, and prioritised at each meeting of the committee. Investigations are being carried out in relation to electric vehicle charging and replacing the north boundary fence with a stock-proof hedge.

It is a pleasant venue in very pleasant surroundings for residents of the Parish, the surrounding area and also from much further afield. It is hoped that our many users are able to enjoy this facility for many years to come.

The Loders Village Hall Committee 16th April 2024