

# Report from the Village Hall Management Committee for the Whaddon Parish Council AGM 2009

Much has happened in relation to the Village Hall this past year. Thus I divide this report into two main sections.

## ***1. The running of the present hall***

**Maintenance:** With the major redevelopment of the hall in prospect, it was decided to undertake only routine and emergency maintenance to permit the hall to keep functioning; in particular Andrew Townsend is to be thanked for repairing an area of the floor so that dancing events can continue safely. It has been necessary to find new cleaners in the past year, which has been achieved, and a member of the hall committee (Carol Ginger) has kindly filled in during interregna.

**Bookings:** These have declined somewhat during the year, with remaining regular bookings now being only the groups doing kick boxing, Tai Chi and line dancing. The Lettings Officer (Wendy Paton) is to be thanked for her unceasing efforts to attract new bookings.

**Finance:** Despite the bookings decline, the draft final accounts for the year (attached) show a welcome increase of £ 2,611.98 in accumulated funds, which now total £19,952.88. The Treasurer (Anne Warrack) is to be thanked for her stewardship of the accounts. Specifically I note that the hall quiz nights and village barbecue raised a profit in excess of £1,000.

**Other:** Mr and Mrs Ralls located a number of old minute books and other papers in the hall of the course of the year. These have been placed in their keeping until some new storage in the redeveloped hall becomes available.

## ***2. Redevelopment***

**Plans:** Following the appointment of Sharman Knowles of Royston as architects in the previous year, development of the plans for the hall has proceeded apace. It was decided that the best approach would be to demolish the present extension, and refurbish the main hall. This culminated in a planning application to South Cambridgeshire District Council, which was approved in December 2008 (reference S/1799/08/S). Subsequent to this, Mechanical and Electrical engineers Scott Wilson were appointed to recommend the best heating and ventilation schemes for the project, and when that was received, our quantity surveyor (Laurie Parncutt) moved to an initial pricing of the project. This initial figure is £350,000 + fees, and meetings have subsequently taken place to trim this figure to one in the region of £275,000; a large part of the reductions have already been found by a number of minor design changes and removal of certain minor features from the main project to be accomplished separately. However, I wish to reassure the village that no compromises will be taken with the quality of the work in any attempt to reduce costs.

**Fundraising:** Councillor Lee Ginger is presently compiling a list of possible sources which can be approached for funding for the project. Much will depend on the adoption of a Charitable Trust to manage the hall.

**Charitable Trust Status:** The establishment of a Trust is seen as the best way forward to raise funds and manage the future of the hall. The proposal at present is that the owners, the Parish Council, would let the hall on a long lease to such a Trust. Discussions are presently underway with various potential Trustees, and also with solicitors so that the appropriate legal documents can be drawn up for both the lease and the establishment of the Trust.

### ***3. Thanks***

The Hall Management committee has met four times in the past year. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their contributions over the past year, not just to committee meetings but also to Hall events, and particularly the Secretary (Karen Coningsby) for keeping the minutes and preparing them efficiently.

Nigel Strudwick  
Chairman  
2 May 2009