

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee AGM 2021

Chairman's report for period 1 May 2020 to 30 April 2021

There is little to report during this reporting period; the village hall has been closed to all user groups and for all activities for the entire reporting period due to the government guidance on Covid-19 virus protection.

During this period, the regular cleaning contract has been maintained, albeit at a reduced level of cleaning but with the added requirement for an extended security check for insurance purposes and a few additional duties to negate problems when the hall reopens (e.g., regular running of all the taps and toilet flushes to reduce the risk of legionnaires disease). These checks were additional to the regular committee checks performed every month.

The committee took the opportunity to refurbish the hall floor and redecorate the main hall walls and ceiling, plus the kitchen and main store cupboard, whilst the hall was out of use, and these tasks were completed to a high standard. The remaining rooms will be reviewed for redecoration later in the next reporting period.

Financially the hall funds are in a healthy state. Various grants from both central and local government have enabled the hall to meet all its financial outgoings despite zero income this year, in fact, the hall funds have been significantly boosted by these grants and will enable the hall to remain a debt-free asset for the local community for several years should the covid restrictions continue to disrupt the normal operation of the hall.

Regular village hall committee meetings have taken place via Zoom media during the past year, and although not ideal it has proved a useful method for committee members to discuss and agree various agendas without risk from the covid virus. The last meeting of this reporting period was an extraordinary meeting via zoom where the decision was made to reopen the hall on 17 May 2021.

This will at last see some activities happening at the village hall and hopefully is the first step toward resuming the full breadth of activities normally associated with the village hall calendar of bookings.

Overall a very disappointing year for the village hall due to the Covid-19 restrictions; however, the village hall is financially sound, the outlook for the future is positive and hopefully the village hall can start once again to serve the local community as a centre for social gatherings.

Andrew Eckersley

Chairman

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee