

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall

AGM – 9 May 2023

Chairman's Report for period June 2022 to April 2023

As an ongoing charity run for the benefit of the residents of Topcliffe and Asenby, the Village Hall continues to provide a comfortable and social venue for numerous activities for all age groups within our community.

Since the lifting of all the restrictions that were imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the village hall bookings have recovered significantly, although not quite to the pre-pandemic level of bookings, of both regular and occasional users.

The building and interior are in a good state of repair with only minor remedial and limited routine maintenance required to maintain the buildings and grounds.

A planned patio area update and improvement had to be cancelled earlier in the year due to potential problems with water disbursement against adjacent buildings, however, this plan has been revised and the patio area rework is now planned to go ahead in May 2023.

The hall's finances are still healthy and stand around £20k, a sum that is legacy of the numerous grants given to the hall during the covid pandemic, and remains comfortably above the increased minimum reserve of £11000, however, the significant increases in energy prices this year may require another increase in the hiring fees to keep revenue at a level close to expenditure for the long-term financial stability of the Village Hall charity. I also believe that the committee needs to be aware of the potential for losing the mindedness for self help just because the money is available, and that small work projects can still be carried out by volunteers from both the committee and village residents thereby significantly reducing the costs.

The hallmaster booking system has been running very successfully as the platform for both bookings and payment, hopefully, looking forward the administration of the hallmaster system will become more routine for hirers and less dependant on the administration of the system via Nicky and Tony the committee treasurer.

Village Hall Committee members continue to organise and run varied and well supported activities for the benefit of the community, as well as to support the Village Hall itself. It is hoped that some new members to the committee will bring a renewed enthusiasm and energy to the committee's activities and administration.

Overall it is a positive reporting period, the number of both regular and occasional hirers are steadily increasing, the buildings are in a good state of repair, finances are healthy and the hall remains a popular venue for both local and external residents of our villages.

Andrew Eckersley

Chairman