

Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee

Chairman's Report for the AGM 2020

This report covers the period May 2019 to April 2020, however, due to the Covid-19 government restrictions placed on public meetings, the report is submitted at the time of the delayed AGM in the month of October 2020.

During the year Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall continued to serve the communities well and proved to be a popular venue for both regular and occasional hall users. The Village Hall Committee (VHC) organised events that were well attended with very supportive and positive feedback, and regular hall hirers continue to praise the standard of facilities the hall provides for their various activities. The village hall continues to facilitate various regular and occasional events and activities for all age-groups and interests across the community.

The village hall is structurally sound and in good repair for the reporting period with only minor repairs and refurbishments. New fire doors and the construction of an invalid friendly access ramp to the north side of the building was the main improvement during year, but signs for ware are beginning to show on the interior decoration that may need addressing in the next reporting period. The grounds and grass areas of the property continue to be maintained as required by committee volunteers, however, the hedge at the south and west sides of the hall are difficult to maintain and control and it has been agreed they will need professional maintenance in the future.

Finances of the village hall are healthy with a continued growth of the funds that achieved a positive balance of just slightly over the £10,000 target suggested by the Treasurer as an appropriate sum of money to hold as a contingency fund to protect the hall against unforeseen/unexpected expenses. The aim for the future is to hold the account at a figure somewhere a little over the contingency fund and spend the excess on events and charities approved and voted for by the VHC.

The final few months of the reporting period forced the closure of the village hall to all activities due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions imposed by the government. Expenses did not change, revenue dropped to zero and consequently the hall was operating at a loss: fortunately, the healthy level of the village hall bank account will enable the VHC to fund expenses for a number of months without concern.

Overall a positive reporting period for Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall which continues to be the centre of community activities for the villages and is well supported by the residents of both villages and beyond.

The VHC members have again surpassed all expectation with their commitment and dedication to keeping the community's centre of activities a healthy and vibrant venue: few will appreciate the personal sacrifice of time, effort and expense that all the committee members make to ensure the village hall is the success it is.

Hopefully, the next reporting period will prove to be less restricted than the latter part of this current period, and events and activities can restart to enable the communities to again enjoy the company of fellow parishioners in their village hall.

Andrew Eckersley
Chairman
Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee

October 2020