

Braunston and Brooke Village Hall AGM March 2021

Report of the chairman of the trustees for 2020

Welcome to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Braunston & Brooke Village Hall Trustees.

Whilst a few bookings were possible from January to March, and September to November, the Village Hall has been closed for most of the year. The committee put in a deal of work to make opening possible, with restricted numbers, effective social distancing and an updated cleaning schedule contributing to the safety of our users between September and November. This will stand us in good stead when we open in the summer.

Whilst the Hall was no longer the vibrant focal point for social activities in the village, the Committee met regularly on Zoom to ensure that all regular tasks were undertaken, and the premises were kept in good shape.

During the lockdown we completed the replacement of barge boards and soffits around the Hall, and capped the redundant chimneys against the weather.

Despite the absence of traditional revenue from lettings and the May Fayre, a full year of rental from the flat provided significant revenue, which was boosted by grants from the Rutland County Council. Consequently, finances are in good order as will be evident when presented in detail by the Treasurer.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with improvements to the village hall grounds: replaced the dilapidated boundary fence with open mesh; kept the lawns and hedges trimmed; supplemented the planting in the gardens; and maintained the garden as a place of quiet solitude!

During 2020 the committee has again reviewed its compliance with Charity Commission expectations, and we again filed an annual report to the Charity Commission. A comprehensive third party review of Fire and Safety precautions was undertaken, with good results, and the Village Hall Management Policy was again reviewed and updated.

I would like to thank Peter McDonald-Pearce, who is stepping down as Trustee after six years, for his willing practical support and wise counsel.

Finally, thanks go to all the 2020 committee members who contributed to running the village Hall, even in lockdown, and to the many villagers (and ex committee members) who helped in so many ways. It is gratifying to know that we will be ready to open as the pandemic recedes. We look forward to the revitalisation of our community hub in the village and the resumption of the many activities which the Hall supports.

Jim Atack, Chairman