

Report from the Village Hall Trustees to Annual Parishes Meeting 19th May 2022

The Village Hall was used for local elections in May 2021, the first 'hire' since the Covid pandemic, and re-opened for general bookings from 19th July 2021.

Hirers have appreciated the improved appearance of the interior of the Village Hall, the closure having given the Trustees the opportunity to have it redecorated and the floor treated.

Although running costs were lower than in a 'usual' year, they are not as low as might have been hoped during closure/reduced usage. Usual maintenance and cleaning continued, standing charges for electricity, water and insurance were incurred and emergency lighting replaced, a new thermostat fitted, and a new fan heater installed in the kitchen.

Hall hire is down on pre-pandemic levels and there was a net loss of £1840 for the year to 30th September 2021. Regular bookings lost include the Scouts, the U3A Country dancing group, and the village lunch club. In addition, in October 2021, with a spike in covid rates there were cancellations for bookings. The Trustees are keeping a close eye on this and will consider whether there is a need to advertise the hall more widely. However, primarily the Village Hall is a resource for the community.

Exterior lighting formed the decorations for Christmas 2021 as in 2020.

The Trustees of the Village Hall, following a request from the Parish Council, agreed that a defibrillator could be sited on the Village Hall. The Parish Council will bear ongoing costs.

Again, we are indebted to Mary Wake for her efficiency in handling queries about bookings.