

Granborough Village Hall Committee

Vice Chairman's Report for Year 2018/2019

For most of the year we have had the full complement of 11 Trustees including the 3 ex officio members namely the Vicar, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the PC. Recently however our secretary, Sarah Freshwater has resigned due to family commitments and therefore we are need of a new secretary and one more trustee. It need not be the same person.

Our responsibilities are to maintain the hall and grounds to an acceptable standard for the benefit of the village. The hall is used by many local organizations for meetings, regular clubs and special events. It is used by the Parish Council for their meetings, by the church in the absence of a church hall and as a polling station. It is also hired out to non-Residents.

I think it has become obvious over the last year that the condition of the hall is deteriorating, but I am pleased to report that this is mostly cosmetic and the fabric and structure remains sound. We have not implemented works such as external redecoration which admittedly is overdue as this would be wasted when the planned major restoration project takes place. The Committee sees major repairs, heating, disabled toilet facilities and improved kitchen as essential works.

We continue with a lot of behind the scenes work on the restoration project but unfortunately have not advanced as much as we would have liked. Our appointed Surveyor, John Nettleton finalised the plans to a more achievable level of about £150K and obtained planning permission for the works which was complicated by AVDC deciding it was "A Building of Heritage Interest". We have received a workable quotation from a good builder which has allowed us to submit grant applications but unfortunately to date they have not been successful but we have a few more avenues to explore. We currently have over £30K in the restoration account plus the funds we have spent so far of about £6000 on professional advice, planning applications and tendering the works. We also received generous donations from the Charter Fayre Committee and the Parish Council.

The hiring fees and our fund-raising events have mainly been held to raise money for unavoidable costs such as insurance and license fees and the restoration fund. These events were varied and organised by different Trustees and included a plant sale, the Produce and Handicraft Show, an open garden weekend, a coffee morning, fish and chip supper, quiz night, etc plus some new events such as afternoon teas and "Open Mike" evening. We also have great support from non-Trustees such as Karl McWhirter who organised bingo and disco events and we would welcome any other residents to arrange fund raising. We are grateful to Brian Sear who keeps the hall clean and carries out minor repairs and Jo Williams who mows the grass.

Our main aim for the forthcoming year is to proceed with the restoration plans and continue with fund raising events.

I would like to express my thanks to the hard work of the committee members and to other residents who lend us their support without which the continued survival of the village hall would be at risk.

David Smedley Vice Chairman
7/05/2019