

Great Waldingfield Village Hall Management Committee – Annual Report to the Village for the Annual Parishioners Meeting – 15th March 2021

The current management team took over the hall in May 2020 at which time the hall was closed not only due to Coronavirus but also by an unfinished repair as a consequence of a water leak from the coldwater supply, which runs under the main hall floor. The water had been leaking for a considerable time and the water lost would have filled an Olympic swimming pool. The repair necessitated excavation and removal of the old floor and its foundations and drying out of the entire structure, which took 3 months. Once dry the subfloor, insulation, underfloor heating and floor screed were replaced before the final maple wood floor was laid. Finally the hall was redecorated. The entire repair cost £88000, which was covered by our Insurance company.

The hall opened for bookings after the first lockdown on the 1st September. We spent almost £1000 making the hall Coronavirus safe, this included hand sanitiser dispensers, sanitiser liquid and anti-bacterial cleaners, signage inside the hall and in the car park and a Covid first aid kit. The Committee Room was designated a Coronavirus first aid room. A Test and Trace system was set up including registration using a QR code.

The hall was allowed to open for only 81 days in the last year. During that time we had 27 bookings from 5 different users, Slimmers World, Mobility Class, Yoga, Clubbercise and Harvest Supper Distribution for the Church. Sadly, Sudbury Dog Training Club, Great Waldingfield and Chilton Parish Councils and our own Neighbourhood Plan were unable to resume face to face meetings at the hall, but we look forward to welcoming them back when it is safe to do so. The hall is of course closed at present but will reopen on 6th May as a polling station for the local elections and then on the 17th May for hirers, Government guidelines allowing

Maintenance of the hall has continued with some replacement locks being fitted to meet fire safety requirements together with a Smart Key Box, allowing our clients to have their own timed access via a pin number. Servicing of the fire alarm and extinguishers has continued during lockdown and the system has been extended to provide a smoke detector in the Parish Office. A long overdue electrical inspection revealed some components that failed to meet current standards, these were replaced and a 5-year electrical compliance certificate issued. At the same time we took the opportunity to change the main hall lighting to energy efficient LED's. We have had one roof leak in the ladies toilets repaired but there remains a possible leak in the main hall roof which is being monitored. In the next year we are looking to have the exterior of the hall repaired and repainted and the Parish Office replastered and redecorated as it has suffered badly from a water leak in the past.

We are grateful to have received £20612 in grants from Babergh Mid Suffolk in Covid funding since the start of the lockdowns, which leaves us financially secure and about £9000 better off than in May 2020 with a current bank balance of £42819. We project that by May 2021, the end of our first year of management, despite difficult conditions, but thanks to the grants received, we will be in a strong position to meet the challenges of the forthcoming financial year.