

**Beckley Village Hall
AGM 24th May 2023**

Chairman's Report

1 Opening remarks

2 Approval of 2022 AGM Minutes

Chairman to seek approval.

3 Our Structure

3.1 Legal Structure

Our Minutes of the 2022 AGM explained our legal structure under which we have been running since then. A copy of our Constitution is on our website and I have a hard copy here should anyone wish to look at it.

3.2 Committee Structure

Our current committee (Trustees and non-Trustees) comprises the following members:

Bob Bixby (Secretary)

*Liz Bixby

*Peter Gosney

*Martina Lopez-Portillo

*Helen McBeath

*Ann Henman

*Geoff Mills (Chair)

David Scott

*John Stradling

*John Walsh (Treasurer)

All of whom will resign at this meeting as required by our Constitution. Those marked * have said that they would be prepared to stand for re-election.

I and we would very much welcome nominations for other potential candidates.

I would like to give thanks both to my current colleagues and to past committee members who have given freely of their time and experience to help us get to where we are today with this most successful new facility. I would also like to thank those wider members of our support community without whose commitment to help us we would not be able to operate effectively. On a personal level I am particularly grateful for the regular help from Adrian Hampshire in keeping our website fresh and up-to-date. His input is almost weekly and his response is always immediate. Not only do we have the best hall in Oxford but supported by the best website.

We are supported on a commercial basis by a very able Bookings Secretary, Mel Green, took over from Sarah Kearney mid year. We also have a newly appointed (in 2022) Facility Manager, Neil Appleby who took over from Nathalie Soanes. I thank Nathalie, Sarah, Mel and Neil for their commitment and support.

We also have a number of villagers whom we call on from time to time for additional support. They know who they are and I thank them for their continuing help.

Indeed as a village we are very fortunate with the extent of community support we receive.

4 The CIO "Objects"

I would like to share with you the Objects defined in our CIO Constitution that govern our activities. I have underlined some key provisions. From this you can see that we have very wide discretion so long as we respect these Objects.

The objects of the CIO are to establish and run a village hall and to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Beckley and Stowood ("area of benefit") without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

5 Balancing Commercial Activities and Village Support

So we are definitely not a commercial business. We do not set out to make a profit and we are bound by our Objects to act in your best interests. However, we can't deliver those objects without income and so permitting some limited commercial use of the Hall is important to us. Nevertheless we fully recognise that we must balance income generation against the potential impact to local residents and particularly near neighbours of making too aggressive a use of the Hall for commercial reasons. We have indeed turned away business because of concerns about impact to near neighbours. Indeed I am pleased to report that after some early teething difficulties we have had no adverse comments from the village although some constructive suggestions.

6 Booking Report

Attached and shown on the screen is our latest booking report and I am indebted to our Booking Secretary – Mel Green – for its preparation. I would draw your attention to the following:

- Our level of bookings has returned to pre-Covid levels (but our expenditure has increased faster than our income which is something we are watching closely)

Outside income continues to allow us to hold down charges for village activities. Of our total annual rental income of £28,566 we have analysed £26,166.12 and some £18,321.50 was from non-village hires.

- Our rental income has grown 34.6% over the past year
- We have supported 385 village hires
- The leisure activities in the Hall include:

Yoga, Table Tennis, Pilates, Spinning and Weaving, Art Group, Bells and Village Events like Guy Faulkes night and the Coronation etc.

7 Collaboration with other village groups

We have a good working relationship with the Church and the Pub and aim to focus on collaborative and non-competing activities. We have shared equipment with both.

8 150 Club

We are indebted to the 150 Club for their past financial support and to Dave Drew who runs it for us. Their support has enabled us to purchase our new projection and sound equipment and we are now building future reserves in the Club for the benefit of our community.

9 Landlord's Support

Finally I would like to thank our landlord (the Parish Council) for the ongoing investments that the PC has made since we took over.