

The Village Institute - Trustees report

I am pleased to advise that now that the LPC is on a much healthier and stronger footing the councillors have been able to give much needed attention to their role as Trustees of the Village Institute.

Our accounts and registration with the Charities Commission are complete and up to date for the last three years and we have now an up to date set of accounts for the year ending March 2015. We can also compare our costs and income year on year with a previous set of accounts from the 2013/14 period. We have on balance a small amount of reserves but nothing that would allow for any significant emergency spend.

With better financial vision and an over view of the maintenance issues ahead of the aging building, some difficult decisions had to be made. Revenue for the institute generated from bookings has been less than the costs of running the building and as a result some prudent measures needed to be in place.

Firstly our very kind and caring part time caretaker William agreed to his role being made redundant late last year. With the advancement in technology our booking system and payments could all be taken on line and as such Williams role needed to change considerably. He decided that given his personal circumstances the offer of redundancy was acceptable. As a true professional William stayed until a full transition was completed. The councillors donated a parting gift for William and had a drinks reception with a few close friends as a thank you for all his hard work on behalf of the village.

With a reduction in bookings and an overview of cleaning requirements we also made the choice to out source of cleaning contract. Effectively having the institute cleaned at the busiest times and not running into cost when the building is not in use. As part of our contract we also get regular deep cleans which have already been commented on by our patrons !

Over the last year we have also had some small maintenance issues such as the boiler in the kitchen being made safe with carbon monoxide detectors installed, fence work replaced, the roof cleaned of moss and the exterior service area cleared of weeds and moss. Barry Calvert very kindly donated some time and wood to patching up the fence work outside.

The VI also joined the Cambridge Acre advisors. This very worthwhile organization gives much needed guidance for trusts and church halls about all aspects of activity and we are currently taking some steps to identify how we can best move the charity forward for the village. Our current scheme is very woolly and needs to have more clarity.

We have our annual general meeting coming up were the accounts and the future ahead will be discussed but our intentions are to consult with the village as whole in the very near future to find out what the village as a whole community would like us to best move forward with the future of our hall. Its no surprise to anyone that the building is well past its life expectancy from when it was first built and we need to make plans for the future. The VI is in desperate need for further volunteers to come forward and take part in the trust - so please come and join us at our annual general meeting onand see if you can help.