

ASHENDON VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2019

At the Village Meeting last year I reported that the village hall committee was thinking of applying to change status from a Charitable Trust to Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This has now been achieved and ratified at a meeting of the hall committee 16th October 2018. Changing status like this involves endless form filling and changing of bank accounts, etc. And our thanks go to our Treasurer Kevin Nash for achieving all this for us. The point of changing status to a CIO is to protect the trustees of the hall from financial liability should any disaster befall the hall. This is a similar position to a director of a Limited Company.

More comprehensive form filling has been done by our much put upon Treasurer, this time applying for a grant for new chairs. Initially we thought we had been unsuccessful and were almost giving up on the idea. But luckily we were partially successful and the Kop Hill Climb Charity generously donated the sum of £1600, and this along with an equally generous donation of £1000 from the RLSC has enabled us, together with some of our reserve, to buy new chairs at a total cost of £5172. These should arrive week beginning 6th May.

The other improvement to the hall has been our new main entrance door. Due to the inordinate amount of weather we enjoy in Ashendon the door and frame had rotted very badly. Hopefully this plastic coated door will last longer.

Our next major project is to have new heaters. Our insurance company have insisted that we need heaters fixed to the wall and hard wired instead of the free standing heaters we have now. Yet more expense! So we are very thankful that Roger Pike has kindly donated to us the princely sum of £248, being 2 years subscription from Ashendon Oil Group. This will go some way towards the cost involved.

The hall continues to be used on a regular basis and our thanks go particularly to the WI and Ashendon Voices for their frequent use but also the Church, the Parish Council and everyone else who uses our facilities from time to time. Our rental charges remain modest, only £12.50 for village organisations to encourage regular use, but this means we have to rely on fundraising to make up the balance. Last year we held a Quiz and Fish and Chip supper evening. This was great fun and we hope to do a re-run this autumn.

On behalf of the hall trustees may I thank everyone for their continued support of our lovely little hall.

Richard Bates