

Report to the Naunton Parish Council from the Naunton Village Hall Trustees Committee

Naunton Village Hall Committee held its most recent AGM on the 1st May 2019. At that meeting both Ian Adcock, who chaired the committee until early 2019 and throughout the refurbishment project, and I furnished reports summarising progress made in the past year.

The key events of 2018 were the completion of the refurbishment programme by the builders in early summer 2018 and the reopening of the refurbished village hall on the 28th July 2018.

Heartfelt thanks are due to all the volunteers from within the village, too many to mention here, who gave their time last summer to finish off the kitchen, lounge bar, toilets and entrance lobby; to clean and tidy the outside area; and to prepare the hall for its reopening and ongoing use.

Part of the vision for the revitalised hall was for it to be financially sustainable. The rate of hirings and positive feedback received suggests this will be achievable in the future. More than one professional caterer who has been involved in recent events held here has described the hall and, especially, the new kitchen as 'the best they have ever seen in a village hall'. Praise indeed and testimony to its potential for hiring to third parties to add to the Pilates, table tennis, aikido, gardening club and the recently instigated monthly breakfast club. The hall is being well supported and used.

The final financial settlement with the builders was reached in early 2019 and the final costs were in line with early estimates of the anticipated project costs as outlined at the public meeting when the initial proposal was put to the village community by the Trustees. While our resources are obviously depleted having undertaken such a major refurbishment, the Naunton Village Hall Trust account is in credit, albeit with a small working balance with which to move forward.

In recent months the Village Hall Trustees Committee has

1. Widened representation on the Village Hall Management Committee by co-opting two further members –
 1. Bob Steiner - to give a voice to the weekly users of the Hall (Pilates, Aikido and Table Tennis), and
 2. Richard Amphlet - to represent younger members of our village community in the running of this asset,
2. Encouraged wider participation within the community, by forming a volunteer group to undertake minor repairs and maintenance, and by agreeing that the village Gardening Club will oversee care of the

exterior part of the site. The first group has already tackled essential small maintenance issues. Members of the gardening club and other willing volunteers have already given of their time to maintain the site in 2018.

3. Drafted a new Business Plan, to ensure that the Hall is run on a sound footing. The Parish Council representatives on the Village Hall Committee will be able to share this Business Plan very soon when it is finalised by the committee.

We have, I think, assembled a willing and able group of Trustees to manage the Hall on behalf of the Community. Our key priorities are to

1. Manage a sustainable Hall for the benefit of all within the Village, and to ensure that the finances are secure.
2. Agree a sensible short and long term financial strategy,
3. Market the village hall to secure necessary income for the running and long term maintenance of the hall,
4. Investigate becoming a Incorporated Charitable Organisation
5. Communicate openly and fully with Naunton residents, to ensure that all can feel informed and involved with this key village asset.

I should like to finish by saying thank you to

1. the Working Party that led the refurbishment project – Ian Adcock, Vanessa Gaford, Neil Vincent, Keith Russell,
2. the Trustees who served during the period of the project and who continue as Trustees – Angela Cossey, Rosemary Parker, Penny Hanks, Pat Boulft, Bev Chance
3. those who have recently joined the Management Committee, Richard Amphlet, Bill Nesbitt, Bob Steiner and
4. the Naunton Village Community and its village organisations, such as the Parish Council, who continue to support the Village Hall Trust.

Louise Goll
Chair of the Village Hall Trustees Committee
15th May 2019