Clothall Village Hall report for the parish meeting 8th May 2024

Management committee

The recent history of the committee was presented at the last meeting. The current committee consists of the following trustees:

Sian Fensom
Brian Griffiths
Helen Howard
Steve Jarvis
Ian McKenzie
Jeremy Sage
Hannah Taylor

An AGM is planned for July thus year at which elections will take place. The exact date is yet to be agreed.

The governing document allows for new appointing bodies to be agreed. The Parish Meeting has formally applied to be an appointing body and this was agreed by the management committee allowing the Parish Meeting to nominate a representative.

Solicitor costs

At the last meeting, we presented information about legal costs of nearly £17,000 incurred by the previous trustees. We were concerned that the solicitors had not been acting in the interests of the village hall as an organisation. We have been in contact with the solicitors and eventually they responded, claiming to have acted in good faith and also stating that there was an additional unpaid invoice of over £4,000 which they would waive if we ceased any action. We are continuing to pursue recovery of the costs.

Recent activity

We have finally managed to get access to the bank accounts allowing us to arrange some long overdue work. The main visible activity will be the landscaping at the rear which will take place once the ground has firmed up. We have also obtained an independent risk assessment regarding the retaining walls which will allow us to determine what is required with respect to fencing and finally getting the Heras fence panels removed. Internally, we will be installing curtains which we hope will have a significant effect on the acoustics.

A new website has been set up with basic information for hirers and a dedicated email address has been set up to handle bookings.

Royal Mail have agreed to relocate the postbox to the site. This will be on the verge at the corner of the car park. Once this has been done, the noticeboard will be relocated too.

Finance

The accounts will be presented at the next meeting. There is a healthy bank balance and the bookings income and feed in tariff from the solar panels provide a positive net income. We will have some significant outgoings in the near future for essential work as mentioned above but the general financial situation gives no cause for concern.

Hire policies

It has become apparent that one-off events for non-residents cause a disproportionate amount of effort to support and with the limited resources available, we will be trying to focus more on regular hirers, organisations, and local events. A new hire policy will be published in the near future. One initiative will be to encourage community events; we have had a parish walk and tea after the … service recently and there will be a quiz night this Saturday, the 11th May.