Langham Village Hall

Chairman’s report – Committee meeting 17th January 2018

Welcome to this, the first Committee meeting of the New Year and thank you for turning out on such a cold night.

We look back on a successful year. Our financial position is reasonably strong, aided by the street market last August and continuing satisfactory utilisation and bookings which has resulted in a budget surplus.

I have previously reported that the Trustees were focussing attention on a long-term plan for the upkeep of the hall: ***Where are we going and how are we going to get there?*** To gain an understanding of the problems we may face, a comprehensive structural survey has been commissioned and a specialist has also surveyed the external drainage.

Structurally the building is in reasonable condition, but work will be needed to resolve problems with the roof structure and cladding. The report also highlights the lack of any effective insulation throughout the hall.

The drain survey has revealed a number of issues which may explain the problem of persistent blockages and which will need comprehensive rectification.

The Trustees will work to draw up plans and proposals to address these matters but have realised the work involved may be very expensive. Possible sources of grant aid have been identified and these are being actively pursued

Effective control of the heating within the hall has proved challenging particularly in the Ruddle room and I apologise for the occasions when users have found the rooms too cold.

The electrical heaters are expensive to operate and the cost forms a substantial part of the budget for running the hall.

Trustees are proposing a major event for Bank Holiday Monday 27th August 2018 and a quiz night in the autumn. Any other ideas are most welcome.

I am pleased to confirm that Tony Barreau has agreed to take over the task of hall bookings and we are in the process of building a new website which we hope will enable bookings to be made on line.

Finally, may I thank all who have supported and helped make our village hall a successful enterprise with special thanks to Val who has, for so long, looked after the bookings and arrangements for so many individuals and groups.

Bill Hill

17th January 2017