



CROMHALL VILLAGE HALL

(CHARITY NO. 287244)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2023

7-8pm

Annual Committee Management Report

Welcome to Cromhall Village Hall Annual General Meeting 2023. I look forward to sharing the annual management report with you. Whilst this has been our 1st full year since all COVID restrictions were lifted, it has been a year of 2 halves. Initially we had a very quiet period with low user/hire confidence, our regular activities such as yoga, pilates and various dance groups ceased. Fortunately, in the last 6 months we have seen a steady increase in hirers and local residents using the hall. As we move forward, we hope this momentum will be maintained.

Hirer/User Feedback

A couple of our regular hirers expressed difficulty in keeping warm when running their events in the hall during the cold months. The committee has purchased 3 plug in heaters to improve this, in the hope that they will take the edge of the cold whilst the wall mounted heaters take effect. There is no extra cost to the hirer. Also, as a result of user feedback, we have reduced the number of chairs stacked in the storage cupboard. This should make it easier to gain access to the tables and use of the parcel truck to pull out and return the chairs. The additional chairs are being stored in the shed in the car park and can be brought into the hall as events require. One of our hirers requested saucepans for the kitchen, so along with a new kettle, these have been purchased.

We have received numerous positive comments about the hall and its facilities from many of our new/recent hirers.

Hire

We are delighted to have secured a new weekly booking, brought to Cromhall by Laili Brooks. 'Bodydance' classes started in February and are run each Wednesday evening. Laili is keen to welcome more participants, her details are on our hall pages of Cromhall.com and on posters at the front of the hall and in the village shop.

The Parish Council, T@3 and the Road Safety Project continue to use the facility on a monthly basis and we are pleased to be able to support these important activities for local residents.

In April we secured a week-long hire for a Care company wanting a venue for employee training. Out of 70 halls approach we were the only one that could meet their requirements. Positively we have seen a significant increase in weekend hire events for Birthday Parties and Coffee Mornings, taking hire for weekend events to approx. 1/3 of the year. We have our 2 bright, eye-catching advertising banners, courtesy of Cromhall Parish Council (grant), placed at the front of the hall and around the local area. The committee hope that this, along with our

Facebook pages created earlier in the year, have helped with spreading the word that the hall welcomes new hire enquiries.

The committee recognises that we still need to increase week day/evening activities and have set up a working group to focus on actively approaching organisations, groups and individuals who may like to consider running new/additional classes and activities in the hall.

Fund Raising

The beginning of 2022 saw a slow start with committee management fund raising, we sadly had to cancel the Second-hand Children's Toy and Clothing Sale due to poor take up of sellers. However, since the Autumn last year we have been running a committee quiz for local residents every other month. The quiz has proved to be very popular, on average 40 attendees have enjoyed the friendly battle of wits over a pint of beer (or prosecco...not a pint though!). Each event has raised on average £250, funds used for the ongoing maintenance costs of the building.

Forthcoming events will see the return of the Summer Drinks Fair as well as continuing with the quiz.

Grants

This year we have set up a small working party to look specifically at grant funding to help us meet the 2 project targets deemed necessary for hall improvement. The 1st project is to install an audio-visual network- likely to include the 'Loop' system. This may also include the installation of acoustic reduction panels.

The 2nd project is the raising of funds to pay for the resurfacing of the exterior site. This will help with reducing the large puddles that form in rainfall, increase space for user car parking and help maintain a tidier, more attractive space rather than the weeds and 'dumping' areas, as this cannot be maintained by volunteers alone.

Hall policies and documents

The halls Terms and Conditions were updated and went live Jan 2023. They were condensed and developed to include the booking form to make them more user friendly. Hire charges have remained as per 2020, 2021 and 2022 prices to encourage hire take-up. We have benchmarked against other local halls and confirmed that our price is a true reflection of the current market for a hall of our size and facilities. Some local halls have increased their prices as the cost of energy has increased, but we have remained stable on this issue.

General maintenance

The front wall was rebuilt last summer and gives the entrance a much needed lift.

This past year has seen an excellent collaboration with HMP Eastwood Park. An inmate requiring work experience and community engagement undertook many hours hard work tidying the exterior and brilliantly refreshing the main hall paint work. We hope this partnership will continue and look forward to working further with Eastwood Park to enable us to redecorate the Ladies toilets.

Committee and Trustee Membership

The management committee currently consists of 10 members, of which 3 are Trustees.

We said goodbye to one of our Trustees, Cromhall resident Doug Collett stepped down in October last year after being an extremely supportive, 'hands on' member for at least 4 years. We know that Doug will continue to support us as a local resident.

Fortunately, Jo Carr, a committee member has agreed to take up the vacant Trustee position, we will formally welcome her at the AGM.

Linda Clothier, who has been the Hall's Booking Secretary for 5 years, steps down from her position. We would like to thank Linda for all her support and commitment to this post during this time. We are pleased that Linda will continue as a committee member. We will invite applicants for this post at the AGM.

I will also be stepping down after 5 years as the Committee Chair. I have learnt much in this fantastic role and met many interesting people, but a break is required. I will remain as a member of the committee and acting Chair until a replacement is found.

Susie Gilbert

Cromhall Hall Committee Management Chair