

Wreningham Village Hall
Charity No: 284991

Extracts from the report of the Chairman to the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2009.

The village hall has been widely used by a number of organisations and individuals through the year, although as usual the summer period was a little quiet. Monday to Friday evenings are booked solid for the winter period, often 2 events going on at the same time. The regular hirers have included Yoga run by Adult Education and a morning independent Yoga group. Youth Club meets on a Wednesday during term time, Short mat bowls play on a Thursday and matches are held on Sunday afternoons. A Friday morning mother and toddler group has increased in popularity over the year. Ashwren Players use the hall on 2 or 3 evenings a week during the winter for rehearsal for a February pantomime, and the Social Club is open on 2 evenings a week. The Newton Flotman Flower Arrangement Club meet on one Thursday afternoon a month. We have 2 regular monthly Saturday bookings with the Starfighters Rock & Roll Club and the 60's dances. Dumplin Country meets on about 12 Sunday afternoons throughout the year and the school uses the hall on a reasonably regular ad-hoc basis.

The accounts show that the general fund ended with a deficit of £1618.61.

Some of this will be due to not holding an Art Exhibition in the autumn of 2008 plus the cost of electricity has increased and we spent more on maintenance work. It had been some years since we had the electrics checked and they needed a considerable amount of work to bring them up to standard at a cost of £4554.00 Most other income and expenses shown in the accounts are in line with previous years.

We are investigating the possibility of installing a “renewable energy” system whereby we will obtain electricity from solar panels and wind. Selling any surplus electricity to the grid and buying back when we need power. There are grants available for this and subject to obtaining the 2 grants which we have applied for and planning approval we would like to complete this project, at very little cost to the village hall, during the early summer of 2010. This would make a huge difference to our expenses as electricity is currently about 20% of our total general costs. I would like to record the thanks of the committee to Mrs Jill Maidment for the work she has carried out towards this project on our behalf.

During the year the Parish Council commissioned a parish survey and a working party has completed an analysis of the results and produced a Parish Plan. Where this affects the village hall the views of the parish will be considered and discussed over the coming months.

In November we had a very successful Art Exhibition week-end and the financial results of this will be reflected in the 2010 year end accounts.

As with all organisations we find that it is increasingly difficult to find people with the time to give to committee work and I would like to thank the retiring committee for their efforts on behalf of the village hall and for their loyalty and support during the year. I think we should also remember their partners who have to sometimes come second to a commitment made to the work of the hall and thank them for their understanding. I would also like to thank any other volunteers who have helped in any way, particularly in practical ways with maintenance jobs or volunteering time to help with fund raising events.

Christine Minns (Chairman)