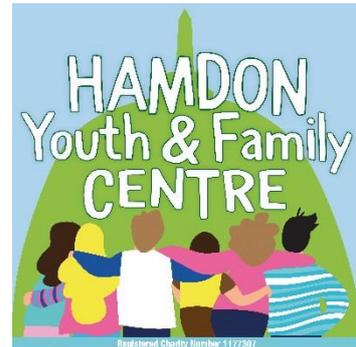


HAMDON YOUTH & FAMILY CENTRE TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1177307



Trustees' Annual Report for the period:- 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

Background

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) and manages the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre in West Street on behalf of the Parish Council who are the freeholders. The building is a former Methodist Church and was purchased in 2018 by the Council under the Community Right to Bid legislation. Trustees are to be drawn mainly from Centre service users as a way of empowering villagers to have control over their own leisure facility. The Centre is only allowed to hold children-based activities under restrictions imposed by the sale by the Methodist church and the title to the property.

Chair's Report

The past 12 months has been a period of the HYFC where it has seen its prior and new users coming back to the venue post the Covid lockdown and making use of the main hall, back room and supporting rooms in a variety of different uses. Showing how versatile the venue is to multiple activities for our young people.

Phase 2 of the project of creating the new service areas of a kitchen, office and toilets including disabled facilities has all been achieved.

In March our young people started working on organising a coffee morning in aid of the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for the children in Ukraine. The HYFC was opened to the public on the 23rd April 2022 where the Brownies hosted tea and cakes and the Blackrock Irish Dancers provided dance entertainment. Many people who had not seen the church for many years came and were positive about its facilities in the village. I hope that such an event can be regularly repeated to involve all of the community in the venue to support the children across the world.

I also hope that the Stoke Recreational Trust can be inclusive of the venue and its users in the organisation of village community events, so that we are working together side by side for youth activities.

The financial state of the HYFC shows that due to the energy efficient lighting and heating that has been installed, costs will be better controlled and contribute to financial sustainability. A concentrated effort is now being carried out to complete all the risk assessments etc for a new public building; and a marketing plan being drafted to source and extend the range of activities. This will include occasional booking such as from parties for the younger ones, and the occasional overnight sleepover venue for Brownies etc. We are also looking at the feasibility of offering playschemes in the summer holidays, run by outside specialists.

Together with the support of the Parish Council and the users of the HYFC I hope the committee and its helpers can bring these last things into fruition and launch this village facility for the use of young people and their families. We will be promoting the Centre on a new website, social media, the Parish newsletter, the Hambook, and networking with other youth organisations.

I see The HYFC being such a positive asset to the community as a whole that with support and its promotion that it can be an integral part of the atmosphere of inclusive, warm and welcoming ambience that I have grown to be so fortunate to be amongst in the village.

Jackie Poole - Chair of Trustees

Activities 2021-2022

Following the lifting of most COVID-19 restrictions in July 2021 hire sessions have gradually re-commenced, although Hamdon Youth Group were still restricted by national youth guidelines for a while longer on the ability to hold sessions indoors and the number of people that could be together. All three groups are now back to their normal hire sessions and capacity. The Centre has as a matter of good and responsible health and safety continued to require hirers to use hand sanitisers and clean equipment with antibacterial spray.

The refurbishment was finally completed in the Spring and the Centre is now in a position to go out and market its services. The building works were challenging in the COVID environment with both workmen and materials in short supply. The Trust can now operate in a fit for purpose public building and offers a light, airy and modern space for children's recreational activities, learning skills and birthday parties for the younger ones. One of the Centre's aims is to be able to offer an annual summer holiday playscheme in conjunction with specialist organisers and for which grant funding can be sourced

Treasurer's Report

We started this financial year in a much better position than the previous year due to the grants secured during the previous financial year, and our opening balance at the start of 201/22 was £28,453.25. We now have a separate savings account aside from the day-today current account where we have moved the majority of the grant money that we have received. As the Trust is responsible for the internal repairs, the Trustees have a Maintenance reserve where £300 is ring-fenced each year. This reserve currently stands at £900.

Income

As the lockdown restrictions were lifted, our user groups were able to start using the Centre again and all groups were back by September. The total hirer income for the year was £1,579.50. Although this is a huge improvement on the previous year, this amount is a significant reduction on normal levels.

The Trust has received a total of £13,917 in grants during the year. There was the annual management grant of £2,000 from the Parish Council, and £11,917 from SSDC through their Hospitality and Leisure grants.

Expenditure

The Trust has donated £21,532 to the Parish Council; £17,000 towards the general refurbishment and £4,532 for the kitchen. The operating costs amounted to £1,965 which comprised of utilities at £1,051, cleaning costs of £222, and £692 for sundries, equipment and £50 audit fees. The total expenditure for the year was £23,497.

Setting our expenditure off against our income, our net receipts for the year were -£8,035 and with the cash funds at the start of the financial year of £28,453, the cash in bank at the end of the financial year is £20,418.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Trudy Cronin for carrying out the annual inspection of the accounts. As always, she's done a fantastic job. A copy of the Income and Expenditure 2021/22 is attached to this report for your information.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and its Objects, Powers etc are contained in a Constitution signed on 26 February 2018. The Constitution specifies that any organisation in Stoke sub Hamdon which is involved in youth leisure activities is entitled to use the Centre and to nominate one of its members as a Trustee, and the original document sets out a list of 12 current eligible Stoke organisations. This list can be amended by Trustees at any time by a Resolution as circumstances require.

The Constitution was amended in 2022 to state more clearly what the Trustees' responsibility is on the Permitted Use of the building under the Transfer of Title deed restrictions, and the financial penalties that would arise for the village should an unauthorised use of the building trigger a forced sale. In addition the village would lose one of its community venues.

Specifically no activities (with or without hire fees) which are primarily aimed at adults are allowed to be held in the building as this would be contrary to the legal terms of the sale of the building to the Parish Council by the Methodist Trustees and their 'Model Trust 40' provisions. These are binding in perpetuity on both the Parish Council and the Trust and any subsequent management organisation. The one exception to this usage rule is a dispensation to the Parish Council as freehold owners of the building to use the Centre without charge on a limited basis, namely for the holding of their monthly council meetings and the annual parish meeting.

Financial penalties involve repayment of the balance of the Public Works Loan Board loan of £150,000 plus outstanding interest, and to the Methodist Trustees either £40,000 or £23.5% of the proceeds of sale.

For this reason the Parish Clerk as the Council's legal officer is now a mandatory Trustee, and his/her role is to ensure that neither the Council nor the Trust take any actions regarding day to day operations and activities that are outside the Permitted Use of the building set out by the building's title and the Charity Commission's rule on discounted sales.

The Constitution allows for a maximum number of 17 Trustees, the majority of which must be service users, as it is intended that the Centre should be run primarily by the people who use it. Two of the 17 Trustees are Nominated Trustees from the Parish Council, one of which must be the Parish Clerk as the Council's legal officer. One of the 17 Trustees is an Ex-Officio Trustee from the South Petherton & Crewkerne Circuit of the Methodist Church

Three Elected Trustees will stand as Chair, Secretary & Treasurer, and the quorum (minimum number) for meetings and decisions is three Trustees.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity Name: Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Trust
Registered Charity No: 1177307
Correspondence Address:
c/o Tamarisk
High Street
Stoke sub Hamdon
Somerset
TA14 6PP

Trustees who managed the charity during the year:-

		Appointed: -	<u>Representing</u>
Chair	Philip Wagstaff	11.7.2019 – 16.7.20	Methodist Church
	Jackie Poole	28.2.2019	Brownies
Secretary	Barbara Brooks	16.2.2018	Parish Council
Treasurer	Sarah Moore	16.2.2018	Parish Council Clerk
	John Bailey	28.2.2019	Hamdon Youth Group
	Hugh Donovan	16.2.2018	Parish Council

Declarations

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees:-

Signature(s)

Full name(s): Jackie Poole (Chair)

Date: