

Broughton Playing Fields & Village Hall Association

Annual General Meeting 5th July 2023 Chairperson's Report



The Association is a registered charity which was established in 1978 to provide, manage and look after the Village Hall and Playing Fields for the benefit and amenity of all the residents of Broughton and Little Cransley. The Management Committee is made up of volunteer trustees and is responsible for the management, maintenance, and development of the facilities. The Committee consists of a maximum of 17 members including Officers, User Group representatives and co-opted members from the Village.

I am pleased to report the Hall and playing fields continue to be well used by local groups and the community. We have 17 regular users including Pre-school, Sports Groups, Bowls, Drama, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and more recently Brownies, Pilates & Yoga and Craft Club to name a few. We have a close working relationship with both Broughton Under 5s and Kettering Football Club which over the years has been particularly helpful in developing our facilities. The hall is popular for parties and one off events although we have seen these bookings slow down recently which may reflect tightening household budgets. As Andrew, our Treasurer, will report later, the Village Halls finances are on a sound footing and as a result, we were able to avoid increasing hire charges for the current year when they were reviewed in April.

I would like to take the opportunity to say a big "Thank You" to all the Committee Members for their contributions over the last year, but particularly to those who have undertaken some of the more demanding roles which are critical to the ongoing management, success and future development of the Village Hall and Playing Fields. I am conscious we are all volunteers, and I am very grateful you give so freely of your time on behalf of the community. Thank you.

As well as keeping the Village Hall going, the Committee have been busy with other things. Since last May:

- In August an Outdoor Gym was installed which has proved very popular. The project was jointly funded by the Parish Council, North Northants Council and the Village Hall.
- The Hall tables were replaced in August last year.
- New seating has been purchased recently which had previously been used at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and was funded by money raised at the 2022 Village Show.
- New signage and display boards have been installed.
- In January, Planning permission was approved to provide new changing rooms, a stage, community room and bar and a standalone pre-school unit with the ultimate aim of creating more of a Community Centre rather than just space to hire.
- Discussions continue with North Northants Council to formalise the arrangements for the management of the football pitches – now into the 4th year!
- To try and address the problem in attracting volunteers for the Management Committee, an escalating program of publicity and open events have taken place during the year resulting in the more recent "blunt" messaging leading up to the AGM. I am hopeful that call for help has been heard.

Some other things which I should mention:

- The Village Show & Fun Day took place in September 2022. The weather was a bit of a challenge but there was a great turnout from the village, and it is one of the best community events of the year. We are particularly

grateful to the Village Show Committee for all their hard work in creating this lovely event. The funds raised at the Show are used for the improvement and development of the Village Hall facilities.

- The village's Community Fridge Project now managed by Kerri-Ann Stolari continues to run from the Village Hall and is well supported. Well done Kerri-Ann!
- We are particularly grateful for the grants, funding and support of North Northants Council, the Parish Council and Northamptonshire Charitable Foundation. Their collective support of our community makes it possible to improve and develop our facilities.
- A big thank you to Ravi Zutshi for promoting and organising the Village Hall "250 Club". We now have 130 members and would love some more. This is a great fundraising scheme and with current numbers should raise in the region of £1500 this year. We have also received donations from Kettering FC and The Chapel – Thank you
- Our User Groups and Clubs are an essential part and purpose of the village hall and ongoing support by the local community is necessary for them to thrive. I hope they are successful in attracting the support they deserve to maintain the diversity of activities taking place on the site.
- The Committee have various policies in place to support the governance of the committee's activities including, Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Data Protection and Procurement which are subject to ongoing review.

Now for a couple of specific thanks and acknowledgments:

- Our Secretary and Social Media guru, Gaynor Ireland, left the village during May and has resigned as a result. Thanks, Gaynor, for your 6 years on the Committee, we are very grateful for all your help your support.
- North Northants Council have once again looked after the playing fields and surrounding area, mowing the grass, planting trees, looking after and maintaining the children's play area and skate park for which we are most grateful.
- A specific thank you for the flexibility and support of our Cleaner Tony Brooks who looks after the building, often undertaking the cleaning at unsociable hours to fit between hirers to make sure clean and tidy facilities are available to all.

Finally, we have still got some exciting projects and a few critical challenges to tackle over the coming year:

- We need to finalise an agreement with North Northants Council to formalise the arrangements for the management of the football pitches which in turn will help obtain funding for improvements.
- We hope to finalise discussions with North Northants Council for the installation of a Nest Swing on the site.
- The Committee are keen to arrange more social events for the village – The Film Nights were a start. We plan to set up a subgroup as part of the village hall to develop this further over the coming 12 months.
- The MUGA (Multi use Games Area) remains firmly on the agenda to enhance our ball sports facilities and allow use of the existing basketball area as a permanent extension to the car parking.

- With the Planning for further development of the site approved we now need to decide how best to take them forward. The plans enable phasing of the different elements to optimise funding opportunities. Our development fund and the S106 money should help us attract grant funding for these projects.

.....and some critical challenges in front of us:

- The response over the last few days to find new volunteers to help run the hall has been promising and encouraging. It will be great to have new people, ideas and energy on the Committee and from others offering support. It will be important over the next few months to have a smooth handover of responsibilities to allow some members to step away during the year.
- There is still a need to find someone willing to take on the role of Chairperson within the next 12 months.
- The Association will need to consider changing its status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation so it can achieve legal status and provide a degree of protection for trustees if it is to enter into contracts to develop the site. The estimate cost is in the region of £10,000.
- We were protected from the rising energy costs by a 3 year contract – this issue will need addressing in 2024/2025 and will likely impact hire rates.
- It is not clear how the cost of living crisis will affect the use of the village hall facilities and the groups who use it.

Some great opportunities and some real challenges if we are to maintain and develop this fantastic facility for the benefit of the local community and surrounding area. There are plenty of exciting things to progress during the coming year as well as keeping the Village Hall running day to day.

I look forward to welcoming new members to the Committee who are as enthusiastic and committed to the future of Broughton Playing Fields & Village Hall Committee as I am.

Clive Gresham

Chairperson

Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association Treasurer's AGM Report

for the year ended 31st March 2023

I am pleased to present my annual report as Treasurer to the Annual General Meeting of Broughton Playing Fields and Village Hall Association.

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023

The accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2023 have been signed off by our Independent Examiner, Tino La Torre. The Income and Expenditure Report and the Independent Examiner's Report are attached. I would like to record our thanks to Tino for his work.

Hall bookings have now returned to the levels seen before the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-2021. Total regular and occasional hire income for the year amounted to £36,353.

The Village Show was again a great success with a large crowd in attendance, even though the weather was rather mixed this year. The Show could not run without its committee and many other volunteers giving freely of their skills and time. We are also grateful for the generous sponsorship received from many local businesses, and the Show recorded a surplus of £7,423.

Our expenditure for the year totalled £42,138. Included in this is £12,487 covering the outdoor gym equipment and obtaining planning permission for the proposed development of the Hall. The outdoor gym equipment was part-funded by a grant of £5,000 from North Northamptonshire Council and we are grateful for their support.

Overall, we recorded a surplus of income over expenditure for the year of £9,473. I am happy to answer any questions on the accounts.

2. Formal statements: Reserves and Finances

Reserves

The Committee formally adopted our Reserves Policy on 9th September 2014, which specified that:

- we should maintain sufficient contingency funds to run the Association for 12 months. A balance of £11,175 is held in a National Savings account.
- we should maintain and build up a Development Fund for the purpose of funding Hall improvements as set out in the Development Plan. At 31st March 2023, the balance on the Development Fund, which is held with the Market Harborough Building Society, was £48,932.

In addition, we have access to the following Section 106 monies held by North Northamptonshire Council, being:

- £ 52,719 for the improvement of indoor sports provision
- £ 9,958 for Broughton Village Hall

These amounts are not included in our accounts.

Finances

The Association's finances are in a sound position with income exceeding operating expenses. There are no funds in deficit.

Andrew Tempest

5th July 2023