



Charlton Musgrove Memorial Hall Chairs Report 2020 AGM

The Report which follows was prepared for an AGM expected to take place in March 2020 and reporting, as usual, on the Hall over the previous 12 months. Due to Covid the usual timetable was thrown into total disarray and the AGM had to be postponed. Therefore, the life of the Hall described is that which was taking place in happier and more normal times. We all hope to have this world back soon. The hall closed on Tuesday 17th March 2020 and has not re-opened.

Charlton Musgrove is a small, widely scattered community with about 180 households and 380 people. Charlton Musgrove Memorial Hall (CMMH) is usually a busy, volunteer-led charity. Pre March 2020 at least 150 – 200 people used the Hall most weeks of the year.

This year we should have been celebrating the Hall's 10th birthday. We aimed to restore some of the previous history, artefacts and memorabilia and conduct a 10-year review of halls fabric inside and outside. To carry out necessary repairs and improvements.

Achievements in 2019 - Wessex Fibre Internet Project for the community

Throughout 2019 the Village Hall team led this rural internet project, with 2 trustees acting as the community champions.

The Hall was used to support the high-speed fibre internet project, with a number of drop-in sessions and larger Q&A sessions. Without this community engagement the project would not have succeeded.

Those with very poor broadband, sadly common in many parts of the community, needed support to fill in their applications, grant forms and online contracts. There were a lot of extra meetings, behind the scenes, regarding routing the fibre cable throughout our scattered village.

The work across the whole community of Charlton Musgrove is now complete. Our huge thanks go to the Stavordale Estate and all the other the landowners who have allowed this to happen.

There is an increase in broadband costs in the 2019 Hall accounts due to the investment required to install the high-speed fibre connection. The connection in future will be delivered at minimal cost for the life of the hall.

Technical expertise, brought by Kelvin Moore, our Vice Chair, was essential and we could not have done this project without him. Our actuary, treasurer Charles Hall also gave us huge confidence to support this project.

Thank you everyone.



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Financial Status

The Trustees continue to run the Hall in a cost-effective manner. We have rebuilt the Hall's capital reserves over the last 3 years. Full details are in the Treasurer's report.

Community Activities in 2019

At the beginning of 2019 we held four Winter Talks. Over 170 people attended the events, generating in the region of £1,500, providing a significant income in the early part of the year as well as providing fun social occasions on dark Winter evenings. Eventbrite was used successfully for ticketing, allowing us to attract a wider audience.

The Hall continued to be used for the monthly Friday coffee morning, organised by a great band of volunteers, which allowed people of all ages to connect and enjoy fantastic cakes. There were many other community events, which were well attended such as the, flower and produce show and curry night.

The Hall was used monthly on Sundays, by a church group, while the St. Stephen's was closed for restoration.

The proportion of community events has steadily increased in the last 3 years. The Trustees have committed to making the Hall available to the Community for the first weekend in every month, in addition to the annual community events.

Bookings and hire income

The Trustees would like to thank all those who hired the Hall during the year, whether regular users or those who used it for one-off events. The Hall was a popular venue with all our hirers.

Our regular weekly and weekend hirers were: Art Classes, Bridge, Dance, CM Parish Council, Pilates, Parkinson's Group, Yoga, Acoustic Healing, Scouts, Somerset Beekeepers, and South Somerset District Council (Elections).

Our weekday programme altered this year to accommodate a change in the Parish Council meetings. Tuesday was our busiest day with a variety of activities. Between 45 and 80 people used to use the hall on a regular Tuesday.

Residents and non-residents celebrated birthdays, children's parties, and other family milestones in the hall.

Hiring income and pricing remained steady. The Trustees still think it is essential to strike a proper balance between the need to generate income and the halls availability for community use.



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Additional Community Activities Planned for 2020

A small group was planning VE Day Celebrations, before the hall closed because of Covid 19. Additional community activities had been planned for the hall's 10th birthday in September. The hall closed on Tuesday 17th March 2020 just before the AGM was planned.

Expenditure

The management team have worked hard to control expenditure. The Hall runs with a very small paid team for cleaning and mowing, supplemented annually by contract cleaners.

The Trustees are grateful for the work they do and it has been essential to ensure the smooth running of a busy Hall.

Administrative support to the hall has been hugely reduced. Monthly e-billing to regular users for small amounts was time consuming for volunteers.

All new users and contractors were happy to use on-line banking.

Gifts and Charity

The Trustees were pleased to support the Church Roof appeal fund for a second year. The income from the popular talk by Georgie Newbury, over £350, went to the restoration fund.

Money collected at our coffee mornings has supported a range of charities.

Our local Parkinson's Group contributed 50% of the cost of a steel kitchen trolley, which made serving drinks to lots of people much easier. Many thanks to them for their help in making this purchase.

The 100 Club was a fun way to support the Hall, thanks to the hard work of Joan England and Dibby Rochford. In the last 10 years it has raised in the region of £6000. This was suspended this year because of Corona Virus in June 2020. All contributors and supporters were written to.

Roadside and internal hedge cutting continues to be done free of charge by a local contractor for which we are very grateful.

We were planning a fundraising campaign this year to make some repairs to our well-used air source heat pumps, the mainstay of the Hall heating, as well as other necessary inside and outside maintenance and decoration.



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Management committee

There have been no management committee changes this year. The Trustees would like to thank everyone who were involved in planning, organising, running or supporting our varied mix of Community events in 2019. Without your help, none of this would have been possible.

Communications and Website

An e-newsletter goes out 3 to 4 times a year with news and events. We share a website as a community and are reviewing this with the organisations concerned.

Details of the Charity

The name of the charity is “Charlton Musgrove Memorial Hall”, a second name “Charlton Musgrove Village Hall” is also registered with the Charity Commission.

The charity number: 304732

The status: unincorporated

The address of the charity is: Shalford Lane, Charlton Musgrove BA9 8HF

The following Trustees served, unless otherwise indicated, for the full year to 30 April 2020:

- Susan Parroy (Chair)
- Kelvin Moore (Vice Chair)
- Charles Hall (Treasurer)
- Brenden Adams
- Miranda Bingham
- Ceri Iazard
- Dibby Rochford
- Rev Michael Vockins
- Kevin Flint (Retired / Resigned April 2019)

Chairman

Susan Parroy March 2020

but meeting delayed to October 2020 because of the Corona Virus Pandemic



Charlton Musgrove Memorial Hall Chairs Update October 2020

The update which follows was prepared as an item to be tabled in AOB during the delayed AGM 2020 for the charity because of the National Corona Virus Pandemic.

The hall closed on Tuesday 17th March 2020 and has not re-opened and it is presently proposed to remain closed until January 2021.

The hall website is kept up to date with changes and village residents on the village hall e-newsletter list are kept updated.

Actions and successes and “still waiting”:

- **July 2020** - the Hall's Trustees agreed unanimously, that the best way forward, to future-proof the Charlton Musgrove Memorial (Village) Hall Charity, was to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and instructed a charity solicitor to act for them. All the village and users were written to. The hall will remain closed until this new organisation is in operation and has a bank account.
- **August 2020** – the Charity Commission informed the hall team the application for a CIO had been successful.
- **August 2020** - Notice of success, with a grant of £10,000 from the South Somerset District Council. This will help cover the costs of the hall whilst we receive no income and also help towards legal expenses and some essential outside painting.
- **September 2020** - Land Registry Applications for our 2 bits of land to transfer from the old charity to the new charity. This has been time consuming and can be very costly, incurring excess legal fees in excess of £10,000. Zoom meeting Tuesday 13th October unanimously agreed to do a trustee personal application.
- **October 2020**
 - Papers prepared, signed and witnessed and posted to the land registry Thursday October 15th 2020.
 - Bank account for the new village hall charity (CIO) is still in progress. Delays due to bank workload and lack of priority.
- After our delayed AGM an update and the chair's reports and updates will be circulated to all Charlton Musgrove residents and village hall regular weekly and monthly users. It will be available for download from our website.