



Pencombe and Little Cowarne Parish Hall

Chair's Report Annual General Meeting 2022

Little Cowarne Parish Hall

Monday 4th July 2022 at 7:30

Running the Parish Hall on behalf of the Parish Council for the benefit of the residents of Little Cowarne and Pencombe is a team effort. The previous three reports give an indication of the work involved and the responsibility which is shared by all of the current nine trustees. I will take this opportunity to thank them all for their contributions over the past 12 months which, with regard to this AGM, is the period April 2021 to March 2022.

And what a time that period was, coming out of lockdown, getting things moving again safely and seeking to restart the various community activities. All residents of the civil parish have potentially benefited from the COVID Recovery Funds which ACRE negotiated for village halls across the country. The money enabled the hall trust to stay solvent, undertake the regular maintenance and make some much appreciated upgrades and improvements.

Booking numbers for occasional events are only slowly recovering, but the hall is fortunate to have sufficient space for a bouncy castle which, apparently, is essential for the success of many children's birthday parties. The school and Under 5s Tots group are regular users and we have a good working relationship with both organisations which enables a sensible 'give and take' to accommodate last minute changes or requirements such as funeral teas, elections, dance and drama shows and COVID infection forced closure etc.

The trustees' responsibilities are for the provision and maintenance of the Parish Hall and it is for the residents to organise and run the events for which the hall is an essential facility. The WI and Tuesday Club are meeting again but Pilates, which Clare Palmer restarted in the New Year, was found to be unsustainable. The Garden Club, the Wine Society and the Community Cinema, which were initiatives led by trustees along with other residents, are now separate and distinct from the work of the hall trustees. The trustees will continue to take responsibility for Community Coffee and LinC Lunch.

We are always keen to recruit more trustees to run the hall together with the involvement of more residents in the wider social and community activities.