

Compton Parish Council AGM 2016.

Member's Report: Village Hall

I sit on the Compton Village Hall Council of Management as the representative of the Parish Council, one of four such, the others representing the Parochial Church Council, Compton Village Association and Compton Little Theatre. We are all Trustees, as are the three other officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and all are re-elected each year, in line with Charities Commission recommendations. The Treasurer noted that he awaited formal nomination of the Parish Council's representative. Around half a dozen meetings of the Council of Management are held annually.

The 2016 AGM was held on Monday 16th May, when the Treasurer reported that the change to the Constitution which he had been negotiating with the Charities Commission for more than a year, has now been agreed by both parties. A guiding document had been the original Village Hall Conveyance of 1934, many of whose provisions had become obsolete, but en passant, the Charities Commission noted several other discrepancies in our procedures, and what had been a simple update developed into a more comprehensive overhaul. David Baskerville put a lot of work into this.

The Hall has had another successful year, with hirings only marginally down on the previous year; 12 regular hirers provide 73% of income, with the remainder coming from 75 one-off hirings. However, expenditure this year has been much lower than last year, when a full internal and external redecoration was done, and so there was a nominal gain on the year of £8,232 as against a nominal loss last year of £2,067. Accordingly, the Cash and Bank balance totals increased to £39,810 at 31st March 2016. Sarah Baskerville administers all hiring arrangements.

The Hall is well maintained, and Fire Risk and Electrical safety assessments are regularly carried out. Old steel gas pipes have been replaced during the past year, redundant electrical wiring has been removed, and existing cabling tidied. More external lighting is being provided, and a defibrillator (provided by the Parish Council) is scheduled to be mounted on the outside of the building for public use. The table and chair stock was rationalised with the purchase of several new items. New crash bars have been fitted to all the fire doors. There are no major works pending. Richard Paxton is responsible for much of the maintenance work.

It has been agreed with Eastbury Manor Nursing Home that the Village Hall should form the second point of shelter, after St Nicholas Church, in the event of Emergency Evacuation being necessary.

Pete Graham, May 2016.