
Hawstead Community Council Chair's Report 2022-23

Hawstead Village Hall is now open fully for business. The past 12 months have seen plenty of activity, both village events and private hires.

Community events for the year included a Spring Plant Fair in May, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June, our September Fete and Produce Show, a Halloween Tea Party, the Triple-20s Christmas Lunch, Christmas drinks for the village, a children's Christmas party and a Curry Night fundraising primarily for St Nicholas Hospice. For the village children, we also funded pantomime tickets for the under-12s, and Hawstead's Christmas Elves and Easter Bunnies made home deliveries of chocolate coins and Easter eggs to all children aged 16 and under.

Our regular weekly hirers have kept constant over the past 12 months, including three weekly yoga sessions, a Thursday night fitness class, and Hawstead Bowls Club on a Tuesday evening. In addition, the hall has continued to be used for a monthly events by the MND Association and our local wine appreciation group (HATS). The parish council has held its meetings in the main hall bimonthly, with some ad hoc smaller meetings accommodated in the meeting room. The meeting room is also being hired 3 days a week for private counselling sessions. West Suffolk Beekeeping Association has continued to use the hall for its spring training course, although its monthly meetings have moved elsewhere. Friday Night Fish & Chips in the hall car park has continued on a monthly basis.

Private hires have been dominated by 12 weddings during the summer of 2022, which we think is probably a post-COVID anomaly. We have also started limiting hires to non-residents to a minimum of 6 hours, because the volunteer work involved with smaller hires and the subsequent cleaning costs make them unviable.

We conducted a village consultation at the end of 2022 to engage with residents about their thoughts on the village hall and how the Community Council is working on their behalf. About one-third of households responded. In general, residents were happy with the village hall and play area, although a small minority were concerned about disturbance caused by some hall hires. We followed this consultation up with a clubs morning to try to convert the interest shown on paper for a number of new village clubs into real activity and change. Unfortunately very few residents came along. We have made very clear that villagers need to get together to create their own clubs and activities... the Community Council cannot do it all for them.

Following our consultation, we also made some changes to our bookings policy. It was made clear that these amendments would be reviewed annually in May by the incoming Community Council members. Since the start of 2023 we have offered free hall hire to the bowls club and HATS on the understanding that they are truly open to all villagers and not a closed group. We are also not currently charging the parish council for its use of the hall.

The Community Council has supported a number of charities with free hall hire. These have included Macmillan Cancer Support and St Nicholas Hospice. We have also worked with the local church team to offer a number of no-cost events for them, including the Advent service and Lent lunch.

Our Village Voice newsletter has continued, albeit published once every 2 months or thereabouts. We are still seeking a new volunteer to take it over.

At present our bank account is very healthy at in excess of £40,000 (and Louisa will report on that in a minute). This financial year we have spent money on the following:

- roof ridge tile repair/replacement
- a new kitchen floor
- a new picnic bench in the play area
- a new sound control system
- a new CCTV/internal camera system
- a new remote-access heating control system
- radiator pipework repair in the main hall

- replacement equipment for broken items after hires
- new Bluetooth connectivity and wireless reception in the village hall
- new curtains and blinds (awaiting delivery).

There is an ongoing issue with damage to the main hall floor caused by a radiator water leak which will be investigated further in the autumn. It is likely that a new floor for the main hall/corridor will be needed winter 2023/24. We had hoped to fully replace the play area barked surface this winter, but more important issues arose that required urgent attention and potentially financing.

As a Committee, JS has worked hard to manage building maintenance, helping to maintain the quality of the building fabric, fixtures and fittings. BB has offered his secretarial skills to keep minutes of our meetings, and ensured that the bins have been put out and brought back in for rubbish collection. LJ, our Treasurer, has worked hard to keep finances correctly accounted, as well as issuing bond refunds and paying invoices. CM, ALF and AB have been focusing on social event management and community engagement, while AB has also been dropping into the hall weekly to ensure housekeeping tasks are completed. SW has remained as chair, and has also been managing the bookings while we continue to seek a new volunteer Bookings Clerk. We remain keen to find an efficient and long-term Bookings Clerk, hopefully supported by a flexible caretaker and a dynamic volunteer committee.

This May will see a number of changes to the Community Council that will hopefully share workload between more volunteers. A number of current members of the Management Committee are stepping away, but they are remaining involved in a more informal capacity so that skills and enthusiasm aren't lost. All four honorary positions will also have new incumbents. So with a few spaces on the Community Council Management Committee for 2023-24, we hope to see some new faces involved!

We also have a fabulous team of residents who support the elected Management Committee, as shown by our recent Coronation Tea Party. Of particular note are:

- JW, who has kindly audited our accounts and helped with mowing the cut areas around the village hall
- JWe, who has been cutting grass regularly in the play area during the spring and summer months to ensure everything remains smart and tidy
- CR and BM, who have effectively been on call all year in times of emergency with the building.

plus, of course, the host of villagers who rally to our call to arms when staging social events.

Thank you to you all.

SW

Hawstead Community Council

May 2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
2	Date	Details	Ref	Refunds	Bond returns	Waste collection	Rates	Insurance	Fete	Other events	Maintenance	Utilities	Bookings Clerk	Cleaning	Caretaker- Weddings	Supplies	Internet/Phone	Charges	Music Licence	Email	Total						
194		Sarah Bullen - Childrens Xmas party	157							£56.50																	
195	06/01/2023	Vodafone	158														£23.34										
196	07/01/2023	JG cleaning	159											£288.00													
197		White- Drinks party	160							£180.61																	
198		White choc coins	161							£37.50																	
199		White - advent	162							£15.00																	
200		White - seniors lunch	163							£7.00																	
201		White- napkins	164							£1.47																	
202		White- sausage rolls- advent	165							£29.50																	
203	10/01/2023	British gas	166									£65.85															
204	11/01/2023	JG cleaning	167																								
205		ppl	168											£57.60													
206	16/01/2023	west suffolk	1			£31.08																					
207		west suffolk	72			£44.60																					
208	18/01/2023	anglian fire	169								£96.00																
209	21/01/2023	phs	170									£133.50															
210		phs	171									£40.00															
211		miller- senior lunch	172							£27.00																	
212	28/01/2023	anglian fire	174								£690.00																
213	31/01/2023	anglian water	175									£161.61															
214	February																										
215	03/02/2023	charges	176															£5.00									
216	08/02/2023	vodafone	177														£23.34										
217	10/02/2023	british gas	178								£64.31																
218		ig cleaning	179											£268.80													
219		snell panto	180							£49.00																	
220		eric bond return	181			£200.00																					
221		altec- sound system	182								£36.00																
222	19/02/2023	woodberry- picnic bench	183														£710.64										
223	22/02/2023	framtrade	184									£412.13															
224	26/02/2023	millier- senior lunch	185							£75.31																	
225		vouge floors	186								£612.42																
226	28/02/2023	rushen- ionis	187																		£54.00						
227	March																										
228	06/03/2023	Charges	188															£5.00									
229		Supplies	189													£238.21											
230		Cleaning	190											£268.80													
231		Mayes Plumbing	191																								
232	09/03/2023	Vodadphone	192														£23.34										
233	13/03/2023	British Gas	193									£63.93															
234	17/03/2023	Altek	194								£952.80																
235		Altek	195								£916.80																
236	29/03/2023	Framtrade	196									£364.09															
237	31/03/2023	insurance	197					£788.12																			
238	April																										
239	03.04.23	West Suffolk council	198				£10.62																				
240		Charges	199																								
241	06.04.23	Vodaphone	200														£23.34										
242																											
243				£436.00	£3,457.01	£592.19	£122.62	£788.12	£672.54	£3,371.04	£11,161.25	£3,103.39	£0.00	£4,026.00	£500.00	£2,969.73	£280.08	£61.20	£954.67	£180.00			Total expenditure	£32,675.84			

Hawstead Community Council Income and Expenditure Account - Year to 13/04/23 2022- 2023

AUDITED

Balances B/F from 2022

Transfer in

Transfer out

Income YTD

Expenditure YTD

Current account

£	-	Hall rental	£5,482.50	Refunds	£ 436.00
		Yoga/Fitness	3913	Bond returns	£ 3,457.01
		Counselling	2250	Waste Collection	£ 592.19
		Plant Sale	£ 305.80	Rates.	£ 122.62
		Fete	£ 1,118.70	Insurance	£ 788.12
		Grants	£ -	Fete	£ 672.54
		Interest	£ 102.54	Other events	£ 3,371.04
		Fundraising	£ 1,155.00	Maintenance	£ 11,161.25
		Donations	£ 800.00	Utilities	£ 3,103.39
		Miscellaneous	£ -	Bookings Clark	£ -
		Weddings	£ 19,025.00	Cleaning	£ 4,026.00
			£34,152.54	Caretaker	£ 500.00
				Supplies	£ 2,969.73
				Internet Phone	£ 280.08
				Bank Charges	£ 61.20
				Music Licence	£ 954.67
				Email- Web host	£ 180.00
					£ 32,675.84

Account balance 13 April 2022	£	44,716.24
Total income to 13.04.23		£34,152.54
Total Expenditure to 13.04.23	£	32,675.84
Cash not in bank		£346.30
Current account total 13.04.23	£	46,539.24

Total balances	Funds held April 2022	Funds Held April 2023
Charitable acc- 71305972	£ 44,631.14	£20,000.35
BMM AC-71305980	£ 85.05	£6,112.43
BMM Acc-251525573	£ 0.05	£20,080.16
Cash		£346.30
	£ 44,716.24	£ 46,539.24

AUDITED