CHEDDAR VILLAGE HALL

Trustees Report for AGM, September 28th 2026

The hall committee has met on 9 occasions since the last AGM in September 2025 with one additional meeting which was not quorate. The committee have worked hard to continue to improve the provision of this attractive hall for community benefit.

Significant work has continued mainly in relation to the maintenance of a Victorian building which, whilst very well built in the 1890s, inevitably requires upgrading and repair in many areas. The committee have to prioritise projects and are significantly governed by funds available and the availability of any grants. The past year has been marked by a number of significant projects, notably significant improvements to hall lighting and the development of a phased scheme to improve hall heating.

The lighting improvements were researched and developed by John Sammut together with Emilia Floyd, a local electrician who has helped the hall on a number of occasions. Badminton is popular in the hall with the height available but the lighting has been poor for this for many years. The central hall lighting is now considerably brighter with double tubes and diffused, a real improvement for all hirers and not just for badminton. In addition new uplighters have been added along the hall walls. These are dimmable and can be used to create the appropriate lighting level for social events such as parties, dances and meals.

The heating of the hall has been provided by a gas boiler. It hasn't been possible to configure zonal heating in order to heat different areas without heating the whole hall. Until this year either the whole hall is being heated or heating is off everywhere. After careful thought and efforts to find a plumber who can deal with the ancient cast iron pipes a phased scheme has begun. John Sammut has identified a Stage 1 which involves the removal of old pipework and radiators from the smaller hall and the stage. This has created a shorter circulation loop for the hall and entrance lobby (5 radiators in total) increasing the speed of response and efficiency of the system. This is now complete and the small hall will be heated electrically when needed until Phase 3 is completed. Phase 2 will involve removal of all old cast iron pipes and radiators from the main hall and replacement with fan blown high level water heaters. Phase 3 will extend this system into the smaller hall together with insulation and draughtproofing. The heaters and rooms can then be flexibly used to provide heating only to where needed. It is anticipated that these developments will save money on gas heating bills.

The Trustees and committee are extremely grateful to John Sammut for taking charge of the lighting and heating. He has worked hard to drive these projects through with some grant support and is also steering further changes. Plans are now in place to refurbish the toilets near the car park. This will be under way at the time of the AGM. It is also planned to install a sink unit in the smaller hall to enable hirers

to provide tea/coffee and drinks without using the main kitchen. This facility will also help considerably when any bar is functioning. A second projector will be made available in the smaller hall. The stage area is also subject to change with plans to create a more open frontal and expose the rose window in the west wall. The back wall of the stage will be cleaned and decorated. It is planned to install a powered lift to give disabled access to the stage. Thanks to the hard work of Heather Scourse and Meryl Sammut grant funding has been obtained for much of this work.

Other imminent work includes the structural repair to the wall adjacent to the main entrance. This was identified last year and involves pinning stonework to prevent any further displacement on the south east corner. The equipment used by the National Grid (NG) in the Church Street sub-station will be replaced and upgraded by NG. Once completed the remaining repointing of the east wall can go ahead with NG arranging to make the area in their compound accessible and safe during actual work. In the process the hall will be helped by NG and there is a plan to install 3 phase power supply in the hall at the time NG do this work. Both of these jobs will necessitate a day closure of the hall for safety reasons.

The committee is concerned about it's responsibility regarding hall security and is considering the installation of a new access system in the near future. All hall users will be given clear instructions to gain access for their rental period.

In late August thieves removed some of the lead from the flat roof above the main entrance. Police were alerted and the Fire Service attended disturbing the removal operation on site. Unfortunately the culprits escaped but were unable to take any lead away. This was small compensation for the problem they left behind and at the end of this reporting year the committee and trustees are assessing the best remedial action to take.

Maintenance inside the hall is often required at height. Historically this has involved the hire of a portable tower scaffold on every occasion. John Sammut has identified a high quality second hand aluminium tower which has only been used once. Its original cost was £1900 but the committee have acquired it for £500. As it is completely made from aluminium it will be possible to store it externally when necessary. In future jobs such as window cleaning, lighting strip replacement and internal higher level decoration will be less costly to complete and the permanent ownership of the tower provides flexibility as to when it can be used.

The committee is very grateful to those who have cleaned the hall. Meryl Sammut generously took this on on a voluntary basis last autumn and then the committee was pleased to appoint Lydia Sims. She did an excellent job but her other commitments meant she had to give this up. Her parents, Bill and Julie Sims have continued in the summer period and we are very grateful for their help and willingness to replace Lydia. The committee have appointed a new cleaner, Kayleigh Pople, from September. Kayleigh lives opposite the hall which makes the job a bit easier to manage because of the constant variability of times when cleaning can occur. We are very pleased to appoint her.

Bookings have continued reliably and the number of “one off” bookings has increased. Apart from the many regular users notable occasions have included the annual Cheddar Flower Show, a well displayed 2 day Wedding Fair and the Cheddar Arts (CHAFF) weekend. The hall continues to be regularly used by the NHS Blood Transfusion Service.

Income has come mainly from hall rental. In addition extremely helpful grant support has been gained through the hard work of Heather Scourse and Meryl Sammut. Grants help enormously in enabling projects to be completed and the committee are grateful for the support of external charities and organisations. Donations have also helped a lot. U3A, one of the regular hall users, very generously made 2 donations from recent rock concerts and Heather’s Line Dancing continues to raise considerable sums through the regular weekly Monday bookings. All line dancing entry payments each Monday are paid completely into hall funds, far exceeding the rental cost, and totalled £6,000+ in the last year.

The Trustees are extremely grateful to our Booking Secretary, John Sammut. Quite apart from his considerable input and ideas regarding technical matters in the hall (as mentioned above) he has continued to provide the community with excellent service. He is developing improvements to booking forms to make arrangements easier for all and moving more of the task on line. The role of Booking Secretary is demanding with constant enquiries and his contribution has been fundamental to the increasing activity and interest in the hall.

The committee continue to work at many other matters and the Trustees thank the committee for all it does in maintaining and looking after the hall. Meryl Sammut has developed an important Safeguarding Policy for the hall. Robin Boyd has been leading an effort to develop a Logo for the hall involving competition from young people to find a suitable format. He has also been instrumental in linking us to “Thrive”, the Somerset organization helping community and village halls. Mark Voice has continued to efficiently manage hall finance including the monitoring and renewal of energy contracts and has looked after all cash payments to the hall now requiring trips to Wells. We depend significantly on his valuable voluntary help. Elaine Reynolds has continued to be actively involved and has helped with Village Hall posts on FaceBook. Adrian Targett has continued to produce minutes for every meeting in his very reliable way and Penny Hambly’s involvement and contributions have been very helpful. Ade Macrow has also been an important member providing an important link with regular Church users such as “Salt”.

The Trustees particularly thank Elaine Reynolds, Penny Hambly and Andrew Langford for their contributions. Elaine has contributed a great deal over many years and has always helped with constructive suggestions and ideas. She has also been actively involved with many practical jobs on many occasions. Penny has been important as a committee member and her work as temporary Booking Secretary was so helpful in avoiding a difficult situation 2 years ago. Andrew has been managing the hall

website and we are very grateful for his work in this important regard. All three are retiring from the committee but are willing to help “behind the scenes” if needed.

The Trustees thank Heather Scourse and Meryl Sammut for their leadership of the committee in the past year. They are both devoted to trying to improve the hall and help the community. They constantly discuss new ideas, quickly sort out problems, and spend ages applying for grant support. The recent promise of a total of £12,500 towards the cost of some of the projects mentioned above is a deserved response to all their time and effort.

In conclusion, the Trustees thank the management committee for its continuing efforts to look after the hall. The improvements resulting from each project help to make the facility more attractive to those hiring and to prolong the life of a 19th Century building. The committee members are all volunteers keen to support the village and the Trustees thank those who use and hire the hall for helping to clear and tidy the venue after each booking. There is no permanent caretaker and it is important that this routine help at every booking continues and that booking times are closely adhered to.

CHEDDAR VILLAGE HALL CIO
ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2025 TO 31 DECEMBER 2025

GENERAL FUND
Payments and Receipts for the period ending 31 December 2025

	2025		2024			2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Payments					**Receipts**				
Heating - gas	3024.72		4919.14		Income from lettings		18434.75		20017.00
Lighting - electricity	1553.32		431.38		Bank interest income		336.91		170.00
Water	441.50		419.50						
Internet	784.25		409.90						
Total utilities		5803.79		6179.92					
Cleaning services	900.00		2793.23						
Cleaning materials	500.13		218.50						
Total cleaning		1400.13		3011.73					
Booking secretary		2832.50		970.00					
Memberships		0.00		85.00					
Performing Rights		401.50		321.20					
Professional fees		200.00		200.00					
Insurance -net of premium and receipt		1818.52		1769.17					
Building Maintenance		13254.92		1133.49					
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		25711.36		13670.51	**TOTAL INCOME**		18771.66		20187.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments				6516.49	Excess of Payments over Receipts		6939.70		
		25711.36		20187.00			25711.36		20187.00

IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT (RESTRICTED FUNDS)
Payments and receipts for the period ending 31 December 2025

	2025		2024			2025		2024	
	£	£	£	£		£	£	£	£
Payments					**Receipts**				
					Fund Raising Events				
					Line Dancing	5725.75		6369.02	
Tables and chairs		0.00		0.00	Dog show	0.00		0.00	
Building improvements		3879.07		5351.50	Quiz	0.00		353.00	
CCTV system		0.00		0.00					
							5725.75		4298.00
					Donations / Grants				
					Flower Power	0.00		0.00	
					Church Concert	350.00		392.00	
					Rock concert	497.25		0.00	
					Anonymous	0.00		0.00	
					Other donations	480.00		400.00	
							1327.25		15967.60
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		3879.07		20696.81	**TOTAL INCOME**		7053.00		20265.60
Excess of Receipts over Payments		3173.93			Excess of Payments over Receipts				431.21
TOTAL		7053.00		20696.81			7053.00		20696.81

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2025

	2025	2024		2025	2024
General Fund			**Cash at bank**		
Opening Balance	23366.63	16850.14			
Income	18771.66	20187.00	Lloyds Current Account	11703.49	15806.17
Expenditure	-25711.36	-13670.51	Lloyds deposit account	15506.91	15170.00
Closing Balance	16426.93	23366.63			
Improvement Account (Restricted Funds)					
Opening Balance	7609.54	5457.02			
Income	7053.00	7504.02			
Expenditure	-3879.07	-5351.50			
Closing Balance	10783.47	7609.54			
Total					
Opening Balance	30976.17	22307.16			
Income	25824.66	27691.02			
Expenditure	-29590.43	-19022.01			
Closing Balance	27210.40	30976.17		27210.40	30976.17

Approved by the trustees
S.BURNS
D. HILL
R. SCOURSE

Atlas
Accounting Limited

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26th October 2026

Dear Sirs,

We have independently reviewed the accounting records of the Cheddar Village Hall CIO for the year ended 31 December 2025 and can confirm that the accounts agree with the underlying records. We confirm that the accounting records have been maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Atlas Accounting Limited
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