Trustees' Annual Report

Flaxton Community Hall CIO

Registered Charity number: 1187370

For the Year Ended 31st December 2025

Mission Statement

Our mission is to build a modern, sustainable hall that will foster community cohesion for generations to come, while ensuring the current facility remains a safe, active, and welcoming hub throughout the fundraising period.

Chair's Report

The trustees of Flaxton Community Hall CIO are pleased to present their Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025.

This has been a significant and positive year for the charity. While our existing hall continues to provide an important centre for community life, the trustees have made substantial progress towards securing the future of community facilities in Flaxton through the development of plans for a new community hall.

Following extensive consultation, planning and design work, the charity has now finalised the design for a replacement hall.

This came together in a presentation to the village attended by over 75 villagers where the new hall design was showcased along with plans for fundraising. The proposed building will provide a modern, sustainable, accessible and flexible facility capable of serving the needs of current and future generations. The commencement of fundraising activities marks an important milestone in this project and demonstrates the community's commitment to investing in its future.

An application for planning permission has been submitted and we were successful in securing a grant towards the costs of the planning reports.

Whilst embarking on this milestone project for the village, the trustees remain committed to maintaining the existing hall as a safe, welcoming and well-used venue. Throughout the year it has continued to host a wide range of activities that bring residents together, reduce social isolation and strengthen community ties.

The trustees would like to thank all volunteers, supporters, hirers and residents who have contributed their time, expertise and enthusiasm to the ongoing success of the hall and the development of the new hall project.

Objectives and Activities

The key objectives of the charity are:

- the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Flaxton in the County of North Yorkshire without distinction of political, religious or other opinions including use for meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants; and
- promoting education (including but not limited to religious education in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England) for the said inhabitants.

The charity seeks to improve the quality of life within the community by providing a venue where people of all ages can meet, learn, participate in activities and build social connections.

To further these objectives, the hall has hosted a variety of regular community activities including:

- Bingo sessions
- Coffee and Cake gatherings
- Pilates classes
- Guides meetings
- Ceilidh nights
- Curry nights
- Flaxton and District Friends Group
- Environment Group
- Gardening Club

The trustees review activities regularly to ensure that the hall continues to meet the needs of the community and delivers public benefit. We are extremely well served by Flaxton Social – a group formed following feedback when the Parish Plan was compiled. They are a group of volunteers who initiate, plan and host social events for the whole village.

Achievements and Performance

The principal achievements during the year were:

- the ongoing maintenance and use of the current hall

- completion of the design phase for a proposed new community hall.

The trustees have worked closely with village volunteers and other specialists to develop plans for a facility that will be environmentally sustainable, financially viable and capable of supporting a broad range of community activities for many years to come. A formal application to demolish the current hall and to construct the new one was submitted to the Local Planning Authority in November 2025.

Fundraising activities have now commenced, representing a major step forward in the delivery of the project. The trustees are actively exploring grant opportunities, community fundraising initiatives and other sources of financial support to enable construction of the new hall. A plan has been developed to cover activities necessary whilst we seek planning permission followed by a ramp up in our fundraising once we have secured permission.

Alongside this strategic work, the existing hall has continued to operate successfully as an important community asset. The building remains well used and continues to provide a venue for social, recreational and wellbeing activities that contribute positively to village life.

Public Benefit and Community Impact

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning the charity's activities.

The hall provides significant public benefit by offering an accessible and affordable venue for community activities. Through regular social events, exercise classes, youth activities and community gatherings, the hall helps to reduce isolation, promote wellbeing and strengthen relationships between residents.

The proposed new hall will build upon these benefits by providing enhanced facilities that are accessible, environmentally sustainable and better suited to the evolving needs of the community.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The trustee group consists of:

Mark O'Brien Chair

Jeff Jordan Secretary

Adrian Lawrence Treasurer

Ida Terry

Jill Fagan

Anne Marie Mook

Chris Irish

The trustee group has been stable but new recruits are being sought to strengthen the team to help with the challenges ahead in building a new hall. Recruitment will be by advertising and word of mouth in the village.

The title to the property that is the village hall and its land is held by Jill Fagan and Charles Lewin. We are seeking to transfer the title to the CIO.

Property and Facilities

The existing community hall remains functional and continues to support a wide range of activities. However, the trustees recognise that the building is ageing and no longer fully meets the expectations and requirements of a modern community facility.

During the fundraising and development period, the trustees remain committed to maintaining the current hall in a safe and serviceable condition to ensure uninterrupted provision of community activities.

The proposed replacement hall represents a long-term investment in the future of Flaxton and will provide a sustainable and resilient community asset for generations to come.

Volunteers and Supporters

The work of the charity depends heavily on the dedication of volunteers and supporters.

We have been fortunate to receive significant *pro bono* input from several volunteers within the village but a special mention to Chris Hearn (Architect) and Mark Newby (Planning Consultancy) and Val Newby (Fundraising) without whom we would have incurred significant costs to date. North Yorkshire Councillor Goodrick has kindly provided financial support towards planning application costs from her Locality Budget. Their support is invaluable and much appreciated.

Financial Review

The charity's income during the year was derived from hall hire, community activities, grants, donations and fundraising initiatives.

The trustees continue to manage the charity's finances prudently while balancing the ongoing maintenance needs of the existing hall with the long-term objective of developing a replacement facility.

Fundraising for the new hall commenced during the year and will remain a key focus of the charity's activities in the coming years.

Plans for the Future

During the coming year the trustees will focus on:

- Advancing fundraising activities for the new hall project.
- Pursuing grant funding opportunities.
- Continuing community engagement and consultation.
- Maintaining the existing hall to ensure it remains safe and operational.
- Expanding community support for the development project.
- Acquiring planning permission for the new hall
- Progressing the new hall project towards delivery.

The trustees remain confident that the vision for a modern, sustainable community hall will provide lasting benefits for Flaxton and the surrounding area.

Approved by the Trustees on 30th June and signed on their behalf.

Simon Massey

Chair of Trustees

Flaxton Community Hall CIO

Appendix

2025 financial summary

	2025
Income	**£**
Hall Hire	2,000.00
Grants	5,000.00
Other	2,359.09
Total Income	**9,359.09**
Expenditure	**£**
Operating Expenses	2,696.60
New Hall Planning	4,193.00
Total Expenditure	**6,889.60**
Profit	**2,469.49**