Chittlehampton Village Hall
Trustees' Annual Report for the period
From 1st May 2025 to 30th April 2026

Charity name: Chittlehampton Village Hall
Charity registration number: 1200197

1. Objectives and Activities

To manage and administer the affairs of Chittlehampton Village Hall to provide a safe and secure environment as a centre for community social, cultural and recreational activities and to foster community well-being, social trust, cohesion and a sense of belonging among all residents.

Our vision is to

1. provide a welcoming and vibrant community hub for community events that stimulate community engagement and lively social interaction for the well-being of the community and alleviates problems with physical and mental health issues caused by rural isolation and loneliness

2. foster a sense of belonging and community spirit among residents

3. provide a well-equipped venue to encourage active, healthier lifestyles for all ages by offering facilities for fitness classes for all ages and encourage participation in community life, arts and culture

4. The hall is a traditional village hall used by the community for social gatherings, functions, activities, meetings, private parties and fund-raising events including the Annual Village Show & Fete, Christmas Fair and music events.

2. Achievements and Performance

During the financial period that this report covered, we completed works on the East corridor, all the toilets, including running warm water to the ladies' toilets. Much work by volunteers was put into getting the tea kitchen up to a sufficiently high standard that we could be confident in including it in the hiring out of the hall and in the preparation of food for our activities. We have also purchased a new commercial standard convection oven, enabling us to bake food at a reliable temperature!

The biggest expenditure and change in the financial year, was the addition of solar panels to the hall. This funded by a 5% interest Rural Communities loan through ACRE. The system went live on the 23rd of September and payback period was estimated as being around 7.5 years

We purchased and installed new blinds and curtains. These not only improve the feel of the hall during winter evenings, but have proved invaluable this summer in keeping the hall cool by keeping out a lot of direct sunlight. We had applied for grant funding for part of the cost, with the remainder raised by our Bingo and Whist regulars. The grant decision was delayed until after the financial year but has now been received.

In last year's report we had anticipated that we would receive a VAT refund that would enable commencement of the Terrace in the spring. Instead, we have had to go through a legal settlement to agree a recovery of this amount (estimated at £18k in total), but to date

have only received £10k of this. We are still awaiting notification from Culmex (the Main Contractor) of the outcome of their discussions with HMRC, before they release a minimum of a further £8K or the remainder of the money, if greater. We are chasing this information.

Other works that were mentioned in the previous AGM as being planned but did not take place in this financial period will be covered in the progress and plans section of this AGM.

The bookings and footfall have significantly improved since re-opening. The regular events such as bingo, whist, yoga, lunch club, craft club, have re-established successfully, with regular events such as the Ceilidh and Quiz nights also running again. Events by external groups has also become a healthy contribution to our bookings. Our highlight event of the year was BBC Radio 4's Any Questions, which was full to capacity.

We are committed to maximising community involvement and ensuring key events continue.

3. Financial and Governance Review

Behind the scenes we have improved the booking procedures, processes and policies and can now confirm that we are better aligned with national guidance in this area. The Charity and the Hall users are now better protected through having a more water tight hiring agreement which aligns with simplified and more fit for purpose HSE and other procedures. It is important to note that the hall has strong financial and anti-fraud & anti-corruption policies in place to protect and secure the monies raised and will continue to do so into the future. We reiterate that the trustees do not receive any remuneration.

4. Treasurers Report

The village hall's accounts show another satisfactory year, with an overall loss of income over expenditure for the year as a result of spending on renovations and expenses identified in our previous year's reserves and taking out a loan to install solar panels on the roof.

Since the completion of major renovation work to the hall, income from grants is much reduced, however, income from bookings and social events has risen significantly from £11k to £18k.. We also received a VAT refund of £10K via Culmex, our main contractor, but are pursuing a further £8k while they take appropriate action with HMRC.

The investment in solar panels was the biggest expenditure item and was funded by a 5% interest Rural Communities loan through ACRE. The solar panels system went live on the 23rd September 2025 and payback period was estimated as being around 7.5 years. It has proved to be a very sound investment as, for the current year, we are in credit and have not paid for any electricity.

In summary, the charity is well-placed financially for the upcoming year.

The accounts were independently examined by a qualified Chartered Accountant in accordance the Charity Commission rules.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Report to the trustees of the Chittlehampton Village Hall ("the Hall") on the accounts for the year ended 30th April 2026 set out on pages 1 to 3.

The Hall's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Hall's trustees consider that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Hall and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements:
   - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Charities Act; and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Charities Act have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed ..... Date 8th Sept 2026

Name: A C B Browne

Qualification: FCA (Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales)

Address: South Cobbaton Farm, Chittlehampton, Umberleigh, Devon EX37 9RZ

Chittlehampton Village Hall

CIO No. 1200197

Financial Statements.

For the year 1st May 2025 - 30th April 2026

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Chittlehampton Village Hall CIO No. 1200197

Balance Sheet at 30th April 2026

	2026	2025
Fixed Assets.		
Village Hall	£375,000	£375,000
Kitchen Equipment	£ 1,372	£ 820
Furniture	£ 590	£ 590
Marquees & Gazebos	£ 520	£ 520
Defibrilator	£ 700	£ 700
Total Fixed Assets	£378,182	£377,630
Current Assets.		
Debtors	-	-
Bank Current A/C	£ 698	£ 3,011
" Reserve A/C	£ 22,038	£ 26,055
Petty Cash	£ 389	£ 368
VAT Liability	£	£ 1,716
Total Current Assets	£ 23,125	£ 31,150
Current Liabilities.		
Creditors & Accruals (Loan)	£ 16,370	£ 10,297
Total Current Liabilities	£ 16,370	£ 10,297
Total Net Assets.	**£384,937**	**£398,483**
Represented By.		
Accumulated Fund b/fwd	£ 398,483	£228,815
	£ -	£223,085
Reserves (Vat Liability)	£ (1,716)	£ -
Loss for Year	£ (11,830)	£ (53,417)
Accumulated Fund c/fwd	**£ 384,937**	**£398,483**

Signed **Chairman**..... **Date:-** 9.9.26

Secretary..... **Date:-** 9/9/26

Chittlehampton Village Hall CIO No 1200197
Income & Expenditure Account for Year Ending 30th April 2026

Less Expenditure contd.

Audit & Accountancy Fees	£ 240	£ -
Loan Interest	£ 210	£ -
Total Expenditure	**£ 36,427**	£ **490,518**

Less Retention Held **£ 8,581**

Loss of Income over Expenditure **£(11,830)** **£ (53,417)**

Signed **Chairman**..... **Date:-** 9.9.26.

Secretary..... **Date:-** 9/9/26