Melplash Village Hall
Charity Number 301152

Annual Report and Accounts

Year Ended 31 December 2025

Melplash Village Hall

Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Constitution

Melplash Village Hall has been a charity since 1944 and is governed by a Charity Commission Scheme dated 2 December 1982 as amended by a resolution dated 27 March 2025. It is registered with the Charities Commission – Number 301152.

Charitable Objects

The object of the Charity was amended by resolution on the 27th March 2025 to the following:

> The object of the charity is the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Melplash in such charitable ways as the Trustees think fit.

The previous object during the period of this report was:

> The object of the Charity shall be the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Melplash and its immediate vicinity (hereinafter called 'the area of benefit') 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 said inhabitants.
>
> The land with the building thereon specified in the said schedule shall be held upon trust for the purposes of a village hall as aforesaid.

Public Benefit Statement

Trustees of Melplash Village Hall have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. For this year, to achieve the best value for the sale of the hall and to establish the charity 'Melplash Community Fund' which will use the proceeds for the general benefit of the Community of Melplash in such charitable ways as the Trustees think fit.

Trustees

The trustees during the year were:

Thomas Matthew Best
Alan Moss
Geoffery Street (Secretary)
Christopher Paul David
Mark Rogers (Chair)
Sally Jane Walton (Treasurer)

Principal Office and names and address of advisers:

Melplash Village Hall, Melplash, Dorset DT6 3UD
Address for all communications: c/o Sally Walton, Barbridge Farm, Melplash, Dorset DT6 3UH
Banking: TSB, East Street, Bridport DT6 3JZ
Solicitors: Porter Dodson, Suite 1, Mey House, Bridport Road Poundbury, Dorset, DT1 3QY

Review of the Year

Melplash Village Hall has been available for hire for a range of activities since the late 1920s. The stated beneficiaries are the inhabitants of the ecclesiastical parish of Melplash but in practice anyone may make a request to hire the space.

Following public meetings in 2021 and 2022 it was agreed to sell the village hall. The preferred option is to pursue an offer made by a local resident to purchase the site and develop social housing, with any surplus returned to the charity. In the spring of 2024, the trustees announced the proposed sale in the local press and invited comments. None was received. During 2025, the trustees worked with the Charities Commission, surveyors, estate agents and solicitors to ensure the sale of the hall complied with the Charities Commission's requirements and to ensure best value for the charity. It was determined that private sale would not be possible and that sale by auction was required to ensure best value was achieved. £52,000 was achieved at auction.

Financial Review

In view of uncertainty over the hall's future direction the trustees kept expenditure to a minimum. The hall continued to be closed and prepared for sale with assets being disposed of. The accounts are on the following page and have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

All funds of the charity are unrestricted. No restricted or endowment funds were held during the year.

Income includes a contribution from the Corner Garage in acknowledgement of being allowed to park vehicles when the space is not required by the hall. During the past two years, the assets have been disposed or transferred at best realisable value. Several assets (with no value) will remain the property of the charity and are being housed in the church on behalf of the community. The Charity received a one-off legacy donation during 2024 of £30,000 and interest has been made on this in 2025.

Expenses: The hall continued to receive mandatory and discretionary rate relief from Dorset Council. Electricity prices increased again during the year as did the water rates. Because the hall was closed to the public prior to sale - and to comply with insurance requirements - the trustees switched off the electricity supply, so the overall cost was manageable. The defibrillator remains the property of the charity which continues to fund its maintenance. This asset will be transferred to the new charity Melplash Community Fund in 2026.

Due to the receipt of the sales proceeds of the hall, the charities accounts are required to have an independent examination, which is attached to this report.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above. Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Mark Rogers, Chairman

02 Jun 2026



Sally Walton, Treasurer

16 May 2026

Melplash Village Hall
Income and Expenditure Account for the period ended 31 December
(Unrestricted funds only)

2024		2025
£	**Income**	£
9.14	Hire of hall and carpark	459.14
125.00	Bank Error Compensation	-
30,000.00	Legacies	-
132.00	Donations from sale of assets	50.00
-	Gift aid	-
-	Sales proceeds from hall	52,000.00
461.51	Bank Interest	664.84
30,727.65	**Total Income**	53,173.98
	Expenditure	
1,408.16	Insurance	661.17
160.29	Water	112.63
418.66	Electricity	409.17
2,786.34	Other Expenses inc professional fees	9,159.00
4,773.45	**Total Expenditure**	10,341.97
25,954.20	**Surplus/(Deficit) for the Period**	42,832.01
10,267.00	Bank Balances at 1 January	36,221.20
36,221.20	**Bank Balances at 31 December**	79,053.21

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December

2024				2025
£		**Assets**		£
52,000.00		Land and Buildings		-
	1,013.16	Current Account	1,180.33	
	35,208.04	Business Instant Access	77,872.88	
36,221.20		**Total Cash at Bank**		79,053.21
		Other assets:		
	-	Chairs & Tables	-	
	-	Short Mat Bowls Sets	-	
	100.00	Defibrillator	100.00	
	-	Kitchen Fittings	-	
100.00				100.00
88,321.20		**Total Assets**		79,153.21
£0		**Liabilities**		£0

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name: Melplash Village Hall

On accounts for the year ended	Charity no (if any)
31 December 2025	301152

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: Simon Hartley **Date:** 03 Jun 2026

Name: Simon Hartley on behalf of Hartley's Accountancy Limited

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): ACCA

Address:
The Grove, Rax Lane
Bridport
Dorset, DT6 3JL