Lowther Parish Hall

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 30 November 2025

Charity Registration Number: 523067
Registered address: Hackthorpe, Penrith, CA10 2HT

1. Objectives and Activities

Lowther Parish Hall exists to provide a facility for the benefit of the local community. The Hall is available for use by local residents and organisations for events, activities, social gatherings, meetings and other purposes which benefit the community.

The Trustees seek to maintain the Hall as a welcoming and accessible community facility and to encourage its use by local groups, organisations and individuals.

2. Activities During the Year

During the year the Hall continued to provide a venue for a range of local activities and private functions.

Regular users of the Hall included **Boogie Bounce** and the local primary school. The Hall was also used for a number of children's parties and other private bookings, as well as meetings of the Parish Council.

Overall, the level of private bookings was broadly at its normal level, although the Trustees have noted a possible gradual decline in usage. No significant new regular activities or community events were introduced during the year.

The Trustees continue to recognise the importance of encouraging greater use of the Hall and are considering ways in which its facilities and activities can be developed to provide greater benefit to the local community.

3. Tennis Court Refurbishment

The principal project undertaken during the year was the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

The total cost of the refurbishment was **£59,640**. The Trustees were successful in securing a grant of **£28,870 from Cumbria Waste Management**, which made a significant contribution towards the cost of the project.

The remaining cost was met from the charity's existing reserves. The Trustees considered this an appropriate use of reserves to improve an important community asset and support the continued provision of recreational facilities for local people.

4. Maintenance and Management of the Hall

No major refurbishment or improvement works were undertaken to the Hall building itself during the year. Routine maintenance and repairs continued to be undertaken as required.

There were no significant changes to the heating, electrical systems, roof, windows, toilets or kitchen, and no major new equipment or furniture was purchased.

The Trustees remain mindful of the need for ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Hall and have identified electrical upgrades as one of the areas for attention in the coming year.

5. Structure, Governance and Management

Lowther Parish Hall is governed by its existing constitution and there were no changes to its governance arrangements during the year.

The Trustees during the year were:

- **Angela Adamson**
- **Kieron Barr**
- **David Calway**
- **Ben Knipe**
- **Anne Davidson**

There were no changes in the trustees during the reporting period.

The Trustees met approximately quarterly to consider the management and operation of the Hall, its finances, maintenance requirements and future development.

Angela Adamson was responsible for overseeing the charity's finances. Bookings were managed with the assistance of volunteers **Anne Davidson** and **Joanne Knipe**.

6. Volunteers

The Trustees are grateful for the contribution made by approximately four volunteers who support the operation of the Hall.

Volunteers assist with activities including cleaning and tidying the Hall, managing bookings and helping with the general day-to-day running of the facility.

Their continued support is important in enabling the Hall to operate for the benefit of the local community.

7. Financial Review

The charity's financial position during the year was considered satisfactory.

The principal exceptional expenditure during the year was the **£59,640 refurbishment of the tennis courts**. This was partly funded by the **£28,870 grant from Cumbria Waste Management**, with the balance being funded from the charity's reserves.

The Trustees consider that the use of reserves for this project was justified as it enabled a significant improvement to a community facility.

The Hall continues to generate income through its bookings and regular users. In an effort to encourage greater use of the facility, the Trustees reduced the cost of hiring the Hall towards the end

of the reporting period. This has resulted in an increase in bookings, although the reduced hire charges have not resulted in an equivalent increase in income.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the financial position carefully while seeking to increase the use of the Hall.

8. Reserves

The charity has used part of its reserves during the year to contribute towards the refurbishment of the tennis courts.

The Trustees will continue to monitor the level of reserves and the ongoing financial requirements of the Hall, including the cost of routine maintenance and planned improvements.

9. Plans for the Future

The Trustees' priority for the coming year is to **reinvigorate the use of the Hall and increase its benefit to the local community**.

The Trustees and volunteers are considering introducing and supporting a range of community activities, potentially including music, theatre, quiz nights and bingo. The intention is to create more opportunities for local people to meet, socialise and participate in activities within the Hall.

The Trustees are also looking at ways of improving the facilities available. Planned areas of work include **electrical upgrades** and consideration of converting the supper room into a **bar and coffee lounge**, subject to appropriate planning, funding and other requirements.

The Trustees will also continue to promote the Hall for private bookings. Hire prices have already been reduced with the aim of encouraging increased usage, and the initial response has been positive.

The Trustees remain committed to maintaining Lowther Parish Hall as a valued community facility and to ensuring that it continues to be available for the benefit of local people.

10. Approval

This report was approved by the Trustees of Lowther Parish Hall and signed on their behalf.

Signed: _____
Name: _____
Position: Trustee

Date: _____