

## Melbury Osmond Village Hall – AGM – 23 May 2017

### Financial Report

Deposit Account	£2,660.51
Current Account	£4,618.99
Cash Float	<u>£0.00</u>
	£7,279.50

Compared with last year this is a reduction of £2487.07.

The income for the year was £6250.44 compared with £10,015.58 in 2015/16. However, last year's figure was inflated by donations of £2,200 from Dorset County Council and Ilchester Estates towards the repair of the flat roof over the extension. Outflows were also up this year by £2,123.41 compared with last year, mainly due to the refurbishment of the kitchen and the installation of a new boiler. A grant of 20% towards the cost of the boiler was obtained from WDDC and a similar grant though of 50%, has been promised for the kitchen refurbishment. The claim has yet to be submitted and will appear in next year's accounts. Other maintenance work this year included the cutting back of the overhanging beech tree. This was done to meet the requirement in our lease to maintain the structure of the village hall. Much of the maintenance work is undertaken by volunteer members of the committee and the value of this effort makes a very significant contribution to sustaining the fabric of the building. Also, volunteer effort has meant that the cost of refurbishing the kitchen has been kept within the budget.

On our regular activities, rental income increased by £234 and it is hoped that the new kitchen will attract more bookings. However, part of the increase is due to the fact that the cost of heating and lighting is now included in the rental income. This will need to be reviewed at the end of next year to ensure that these costs are being adequately covered. The bar and committee organised events took similar amounts to last year. Income from Arts Reach and other theatre evenings was reduced. This is mainly due to the reduced support that Arts Reach is receiving from local authorities. The monthly coffee morning, which made £772, also provides a very valuable contribution.

The hall is very dependent on donations, which are a major source of income and the generosity of villagers is much appreciated. The reinstatement of the annual grant from the Parish Council is also very welcome.

Following the major expenses of repairing the roof to the extension and the new boiler, the completion of the kitchen refurbishment will be a significant achievement in preserving and modernising the hall. However, the three recent grants from the local authorities has been a major help in making that possible. It is, however, of concern that the changes to local government may restrict such funding in the future. It is an old building and its maintenance is likely to continue to require significant expenditure. For example it will be necessary to shortly replace the lighting in order to meet new standards. While the current financial position is adequate, costs are rising, for instance the cost of insurance, which is mandatory, has now breached the £1000 mark. As mentioned above, the reinstatement of the grant from the Parish Council is most welcome but in the longer term the council needs to ensure that it has the financial resources to increase that support if the long term future of the hall is to be sustained and funding from local government is no longer available. It is noted that the lease on the hall will expire in September 2024, in order to judge the cost effectiveness of any improvements it may now be worth enquiring of Ilchester Estates as to their intentions regarding the lease's renewal. Their answer could well also affect decisions on our eligibility for any grants that may be available.