**ASTON CANTLOW VILLAGE HALL**

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019**

Aston Cantlow Village Hall is a registered charity (No: 522852) governed by a Scheme devised by the Minister for Education on 28th June 1960 under the Charitable Costs Act 1853-1925 and revised by the Charity Commission in 2002.

**Honorary Officers as at the 31st December 2019**

Chairman Lesley Harvey

Vice Chairman Hilary Martin

Secretary Suzanne Edkins

Treasurer David Hannaford

**Elected Members**

Mick Walker (Resigned Jan 2019)

Pat Butterell (Resigned 2019)

**Co-opted members**

Ciaran Aldridge

Karen Williams

Keith Osborne

Louise Stanford

Malcolm Gloster

**Representative members:**

Woman’s Institute - Position vacant

Local History Society - Margaret Twigg

Parish Council - Lesley Harvey

Parochial Church Council - Hilary Martin

Tennis Club - Helen Douglas

Aston Cantlow Club - Position vacant

Arts Club - Position vacant

**Object of the Village Hall Charity (set by The Scheme)**

The object of the Foundation shall be the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Aston Cantlow and the surrounding district without distinction of gender, or of political, religious or other opinions; and in particular for the use of meetings, lectures and classes and for all other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of the said inhabitants.

**The Committee and Meetings**

Due to the corona virus outbreak the AGM this April could not be held and therefore it was agreed to defer it to next year for full discussion. In the meantime it was further agreed that the current Chairman Lesley Harvey would be re-elected and serve until April next year when positions will be reviewed. This was voted for by all committee members. As chair I would like to thank the members for their continued support and for their attendance at meetings, responding to numerous and sometimes complex issues via email and other exchanges and for all their hard work throughout the year.

The Committee has held six formal meetings during 2019, and a further meeting in January this year. These meetings dealt with the running of the hall and its facilities and took some important decisions on improvements to the playground. In addition to these meetings, there were regular exchanges of emails amongst members when actions were needed between meetings.

**Hall and Playground Maintenance and Refurbishment**

Following some discussions committee members put themselves forward to take ownership of day to day parts of the running of the VH. For the Hall maintenance and refurbishment Lesley Harvey and David Hannaford will lead, Playground Maintenance and Refurbishment will be led by Ciaran Aldridge. David Hannaford continued to be responsible as the first port of call for general maintenance during the last year with support from others as needed. It should be noted that overall decisions on everything still remain with the whole committee not the lead for any particular area.

Our thanks go to Mick and Margaret who have continued to deal with the planting and care of the hanging baskets and tubs during the year. These have been much admired and form a really wonderful display around the centre of the Village and I would like to record my thanks and those of the committee as a whole to both of them for all they have done in this regard during the last year. Whilst Mick has a stood down from the Committee as previously reported, he has offered to continue to be available to help with maintenance issues in the playground when requested, and this ongoing service to the Village Hall is greatly appreciated and again the committee and I would like to thank him for all he has done in continuing to help when he can on maintenance.

Mick Walker and David Hannaford have also, during the year, dealt with a number of repairs to the playground equipment as recommended by the annual ROSPA report.

The Playground, its equipment and maintenance has been the subject of much discussion in and out of committee during the year. We have continued our engagement with the Parish Council who have been very supportive of our role as custodians of the playground on behalf of the local community and once again made a financial contribution of £2,000 from the PC during the year as a contribution towards the grass cutting throughout the growing season. In addition, the PC funded the purchase and installation of some adult fitness equipment which has been installed. The Committee intends to provide further equipment with wheelchair accessibility when funds allow to ensure the playground is able to be used by all children.

No major investment has been made in the main hall or the guild room although the guild room floor requires resurfacing as does those in the hallway and the toilets which will be reported on in next year’s report. Minor repairs as and when they arise in both the hall and the playground have been carried out as and when required. In the next report we will report on the additional repairs to the roof.

**Residential Properties and Tenancies**

Two of the three residential properties were fully let during the year. Subsequent to the repossession of the Corner Cottage, a full assessment was carried out on its structural state and general repair and this was found to be more significantly deteriorated than was originally expected. Our appointed electricians recommended a full re-wire of the cottage and our building contractor undertook a major refurbishment which included the repair of any plasterwork and woodwork, painting and decorating throughout, replacement of all carpets with hardwearing more durable quality, the replacement of the kitchen and all white goods and the replacement of the shower unit in the bathroom. Further, the water tank was moved from the kitchen to the loft (and was insulated) to enable more space in the kitchen and to provide a hall storage cupboard. The heating was replaced throughout with new storage radiators which are more energy efficient and programmable and ceiling lights were fitted in the main room giving more headspace. The cottage was completed and a tenant installed at a much better rental rate due to the refurbishment (details of rental income are shown in the audited accounts linked to this document).

**Caretaker and Cleaner**

During the year our caretaker, Lizzee Leedham, instigated a regular cleaning programme to be followed by our cleaner, Lita Major and continues to monitor the state of the hall both operationally and structural (with the help of myself and David Hannaford. Lizzee continues to embrace the role with enthusiasm and we would like to thank her for her continued commitment to the role.

**Hall users and Events**

A number of local organisations continue to use the Village Hall on a regular basis. These include the Parish Council, the WI, the Lace makers, various fitness groups and dance clubs and more lately a group of musicians use the guild room for rehearsals, and there continue to be a number of one-off bookings from local people for family events which all contribute to the income generated by the Hall. .

**Tennis Club**

The Tennis Club continues as a tenant of the Village Hall and is responsible for maintenance of the courts and the small clubhouse. The Club is continually seeking to attract new members from the villages within the Parish. Regular social tennis and competitive matches are organised by the club’s committee.

**Parish Council Emergency Equipment and Plan**

The Parish Council has responsibility for these matters but at the request of the Council various items of equipment including blankets continue to be stored in the Hall as the Hall continues to be the emergency community gathering point for the Parish.

**Committee Members 2019**

I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work during the past year and in particular would like to welcome our new members who threw themselves enthusiastically into supporting us. Ciaran and Karen organised a clean up of the equipment in the playground which was greatly appreciated by all users and the committee - Thank you both. Karen very kindly offered to step into the role of Secretary which we value enormously and extend our thanks for. Louise Stanford has stepped into Fundraising on our behalf and also established the Rural Cinema to visit every month and has made a valuable contribution to the committee. Keith Osborne has been looking at our IT systems and has established file sharing and we thank him for his efforts. Hilary Martin and Margaret Twigg have both decided (as of 2018) that this year would be their last, they have served this committee for a huge number of years and have been active members – but they felt it was time to retire. On behalf of the committee I wish to extend our thanks to them for their long service and commitment and all that they have done over the years to keep the Village Hall running. Lastly, this year Suzanne Edkins has also decided the time is right for her to move on, having taken on the Chairmanship of the WI and her numerous other commitments. Again, on behalf of the committee we would like to thanks Suzanne for her enthusiasm and commitment, her drive to fund raise and enlist more members and her role as Secretary. Last but not least Malcolm Gloster has decided to retire from the committee after many years as a member and of course our Chairman. Thank you on behalf of the committee and the community for all that you have done. All of them will be sorely missed and we wish all of them well.

**Lesley Harvey - Honorary Chairman**

**For and on behalf of the Management Committee – April 30th 2020**