

**MINUTES OF THE LEIGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE SMALL HALL,
HIGH STREET, LEIGH ON MONDAY 16TH APRIL 2012 AT 8PM**

PRESENT: Cllr. C. Stratton-Brown (Chairman), Cllr D. Bennie, Cllr P. Croft, Cllr J. Knock, Cllr G. Marchant, Cllr S. Smith and Cllr R. Swallow
APOLOGIES: Cllr B. Doherty and Cllr A. Johnston
IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr A. Cook, County Cllr P. Lake, Mrs L. Kleinschmidt (Clerk), Mr C. Nouhan (SDC Recycling Manager) and members of the public

1. Presentation by Charles Nouhan, Sevenoaks District Council's Recycling Manager

Cllr Stratton-Brown welcomed Mr Charles Nouhan to the meeting. Mr Nouhan said that there is a waste hierarchy: Prevention → Preparing for re-use (textiles, white goods, reuseable materials such as road surfaces) → Recycling → Other Recovery (items that are not recycled or disposed of, such as composting and energy production from waste) → Disposal. SDC uses three recycling centres, where the items in the clear recycling bags are manually sorted to remove items that cannot be recycled. Items are then sorted by, for example magnets to remove cans and metal items. The items are then bailed and taken to re-processor centres. Aylesford Newsprint takes 500,000 tons of old newspapers and magazines and turns them into 400,000 tons of newsprint. SDC does not send any rubbish to landfill, and has not done so since 2008. Refuse now goes to an 'energy-from-waste' facility to create electricity. One of these facilities is Allington, which takes both recycling items and refuse. The refuse is broken up and used as fuel. The facility meets the highest European air quality standards and it is mainly only water vapour that is expelled. Landfill sites are polluting and harmful to the atmosphere, causing global warming due to the release of methane. The Allington facility, which is used for the majority of the district's waste, can recycle plastic bottles which are valuable as they are easy to manipulate and are sorted mechanically. Other plastics are not so easy to recycle, but the new facility in Swanley can recycle other plastics, including carrier bags. The message to the public at the moment is that only plastic bottles can be recycled, but in practice other plastics can now too, but as both centres can't offer this facility, SDC cannot ask residents to put them in their recycling bags. These other plastic items go with the rest of the refuse to the 'energy-from-waste' facility. SDC provides a garden waste kerbside collection service too, which goes to the Sundridge composting facility. 6,000 households in the district are on the garden waste permit scheme. The waste is collected on a fortnightly basis and it is not at the moment possible to increase this to a weekly service, as it would cost too much.

The question was asked why Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have provided each household with a free wheelie-bin, and SDC use refuse and recycling sacks. Mr Nouhan replied that it would cost SDC £750,000 to provide wheelie-bins to every household, and this cost would be added to resident's council tax. The garden waste service is self-financing, and SDC have found it to be cheaper and more efficient to provide the refuse and recycling sacks.

The next delivery of refuse and recycling sacks will be on 28th May, and each household is given 1¹/₄ recycling sacks per week, and one refuse sack per week.

The question was asked whether the recycling modules in Crandalls could be kept tidier, and Mr Nouhan agreed, stating that any bottles and cardboard left beside the modules are not recycled, but thrown away. The paper in the recycling modules actually achieves a higher revenue than the paper collected through kerbside collection.

Mr Nouhan finished off by thanking the dustmen for all their hard work and commitment.

Mr Stratton-Brown thanked Mr Nouhan very much for sparing the time to come along.

2. **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2011** were approved.
3. **To report on matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2011**
Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that one item from the last meeting has carried forward, and that is that cars continue to be parked on the pavement causing a safety hazard, and children still ride their bikes on the pavements which is also very dangerous.
4. **Chairman's Report of Activities in 2011/12**
 - 1 **Membership and Clerk** – Elections were held in April last year. Councillors elected were David Bennie, Peter Croft, Beverley Doherty, Alan Johnston, John Knock, Graham Marchant, Sue Smith, Rob Swallow and myself. In September, Janice Butler resigned having given us over four years of excellent service and support. We were fortunate to be able to appoint Louise Kleinschmidt who took over in September. The Parish Council has been consulted on parliamentary constituent boundaries, and there may be a slight change to two properties on the Penshurst Road.
 - 2 **Royal Wedding Celebration** – A wonderful celebration of the wedding of Prince William to Miss Kate Middleton was held in the Parish. This started with the televised service being projected in the church and the audience joining in the hymns, followed by picnic lunches and activities on the Green for the rest of the day including a fancy dress parade for the children, a tug of war competition, rides in a trailer drawn by a steam engine, dancing and fireworks. The village has to thank the hard work of a team led by Beverley Docherty for a very memorable day.
 - 3 **Planning** – the Parish Council has tightened its procedures and, if the Parish Council objects to an application which the Planning Officer is minded to approve, the Planning Officer is then required to consult with the District Council to agree whether the application is dealt with by committee or under delegated powers. The same applies if the Planning Officer objects to an application that the Parish Council supports. Council considered 29 planning applications, well down from 47 last year. Council supported 15, objected to 1 and had no objection or just commented on 13. Residents are asked to please send copies of any comments they make on planning applications to the Clerk so that the Parish Council can take these comments into consideration whilst preparing a consultation response. Although there were no major planning applications during the year, an exhibition has recently been held about a proposal to build 13 homes on the land to the south of Garden Cottages. Thirteen units is the minimum allowed under the District Council's dwelling criteria. There is likely to be a planning application for this site in the near future. The future of the GlaxoSmithKline research facility site at the Powder Mills is the subject of a recent report commissioned by the Sevenoaks District Council. This report concludes that this site, because of its location and difficult transport links, is unsuitable for industrial use and proposes that the best use is to provide more residential accommodation. The Parish Council is to meet with officers from the District Council to discuss the future of this site.
 - 4 **Roads** – Potholes are still an issue. Our Clerk can request KCC highways to repair them so please let her know of any you spot. The damage to the Green caused by traffic avoiding parked vehicles limiting the road is still the subject of on going consideration by the Council. The Council is concerned at the potential for accidents at the Laundry Cottage corner and KCC intend to improve the signs and road markings. The Council is also worried about the junction of Coppins Road and Philpots Lane and wishes to see a 20mph sign for the eastbound traffic approaching this corner, which would be in addition to the existing westbound sign. KCC are currently refusing this on the basis of lack of funds. Progress on the proposed footpath linking Knotley Hall and the existing pavement opposite St. Luke's church is desperately slow but KCC has at last sent a draft agreement to the landowner. Sadly, despite hopes, Kent Highways is unlikely to resurface Greenview Avenue this year owing to lack of funds.
 - 5 **Transport** - Regrettably some drivers of the Hildenborough station service continue to depart just as the trains arrive. However we are grateful to KCC for continuing with this service but it could do with more passengers.
 - 6 **Village Halls** – We must again express our thanks to Helen Everett, Alan Johnson and the rest of the Management Committee team for the vastly improved state of the halls. We also thank

them for managing the finances so well that they have not called on the council for help paying the insurance.

7 Environment

The Crandalls pond's appearance and smell leaves a lot to be desired. Our Clerk has met with the Hildenborough Pond Warden who is taking samples of the water and will keep us informed. The Clerk has obtained a key to the padlock to enable the surrounds to be tidied up. Bartlett's again inspected the trees on the Green. The chestnut trees were treated against leaf miner disease and some minor husbandry was undertaken on the other trees. The Parish Council thanks Hall Place for repairing the wall on the Hildenborough Road, and SDC is in contact with owner of the remaining stretch of wall. To maintain the bulk refuse freighter service, the Council is subsidising the calls. The dates and times that the freighter is calling are listed on the Parish Council's website. KCC Landscape Services continue to maintain the Green for us and it has continued to look well. We have agreed that Shaylers' Fun Fair should come again this year, opening on June 15th, 16th and 17th. Again I would like to make a special mention of all the work cutting grass, trimming trees and general tidying up around the parish carried out by Peter Croft. We are very fortunate to be able to call on Peter whenever something crops up. May I also thank Brian Brooker for keeping the area round the War Memorial so tidy.

8 Aged Persons Dwellings – A steady stream of minor repairs has been carried out during the year either undertaken or supervised by Alan Johnston. We are all very grateful for his major contribution to the village for helping with the repairs to these dwellings and to the village halls, and, with Barbara and his family, providing the excellent village shop.

9 Youth – The Families Fund Day scheme held on the Green in the summer was a success and was attended by about 70 people and it is intended to repeat it this year.

10 Website – The Clerk meet with Ian Bishop to discuss possible website providers. After investigation, it was decided to use Vision who look after several local parishes. The website has now gone live and we are very grateful for Louise and Ian's work in bringing this about.

11 Broadband – please can residents log onto www.makekentquicket.com in order to register for faster broadband. The Parish Council is in the process of preparing a short survey which will be delivered to residents with the Parish Magazine and newspapers. Thank go to Cllr Swallow, who is working with SDC and KCC to secure funding through a bid to DEFRA for improved rural broadband.

11 Finance – Louise will be giving the financial report next but I should mention that, in the light of pressure on parishioners, the Council decided to keep the precept unchanged for 2012/13.

12 Concluding Remarks – Again, I must thank all our Councillors for their work and support during the year. Just to give you an inkling of what is involved, the Council received about 300 items of correspondence during the year that have to be dealt with.

We must also thank Councillor Alison Cook and Councillor Peter Lake, our District and County Council representatives, for all their work and the time they give up to looking after our affairs and despite their other commitments their regular attendance at our meetings. Thanks must also go to our MP, Sir John Stanley.

Cllr Knock thanked Cllr Stratton-Brown for his hard work and commitment as Chairman to the Parish Council.

5. The Finance Report for year 2011/12 was circulated as a hand-out.

The Parish Council's financial year runs from 1st April until 31st March. The precept for the year 2011/12 was £18,500, and the precept for the current year, 2012/13, is unchanged at £18,500. This sum, which is generated from residents' Council Tax, is paid to the Parish Council by Sevenoaks District Council. Rental of £9,490 has been received from tenants of the two bungalows owned by the Parish Council. This year, annual memberships have been renewed to the following:

Kent Association of Local Councils	£523.93
Action with Communities in Rural Kent	£35.00
CPRE	£29.00

Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign £10.00
 Parish Council Legal Update publication £70.00
 and a new subscription this year has been taken out with Parish-Online, an electronic mapping service that allows the Parish Council to view digital maps of the parish. This costs £40 per annum. Grants have been awarded as follows:

Leigh PCC – contribution towards The Leigh Directory £300.00
 Leigh Primary School – contribution towards a new classroom £2,500.00
 Leigh Primary School – contribution towards purchase of ipads £1,200.00

Our internal audit for the year 2010/11 was undertaken by Mr Colin Stevens, and we are grateful to Colin for his help. The Audit Commission signed off the Annual Return and confirmed that the accounts were in good order.

Below is a summary of the Parish Council's Income and Expenditure for the year 2011/12:

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Precept	18,500.00	Salaries	5,596.45
APD rental	9,490.00	PAYE	610.22
Income received: damage to assets	475.00	Pension contribution	1,682.40
Income received: hire of assets	400.00	Mileage	428.49
Wayleave	8.45	Stationery	76.55
Interest on Investments	22.55	Telephone/Email	180.46
Other income	41.81	Office Expenses	684.97
		Website	375.00
		Insurance	1,477.21
		Audit/Accountancy	285.00
		Chairman's Expenses	18.55
		Training	125.50
		Subscriptions	707.93
		Hall Hire	104.00
		Entertainment	474.20
		Election costs	1,088.53
		Sundry	11.50
		Village Green	4,226.38
		Litter / dog bins	1,237.50
		Grants	4,000.00
		APD	4,127.57
		Family Fun Play Scheme	339.51
	<u>28,937.81</u>		<u>27,857.92</u>
Surplus of income over expenditure			1,079.89

6. Report by District Cllr Alison Cook

The District Council elections in May 2011 resulted in a significant change in the composition of members with a welcome influx of some young councillors bringing with them a broad range of experiences and interests. Two by-elections have recently been held. Once again the Council agenda has been focussed on delivering the Community Plan within the framework of the ten year budget proposals.

Another key priority has been the preparation of the proposed Local Development Framework ensuring that sufficient land has been earmarked for housing development up to the year 2020 whilst ensuring the protection of the Green Belt and safeguarding industrial/business sites.

Following last year's budget the Council gave its minibus fleet to various voluntary organisations for them to run the service for the over 60s or those with disabilities living within the District – these included Age UK, Kent Karrier and VAWK (Voluntary Action Within Kent). Despite initial concerns the system is working extremely well, offering greater choice for clients especially via the Dial to Drive Scheme.

The Council has continued its programme of partnership ventures. Building on its successful joint working with Dartford B.C. in the Department of Revenue and Benefits, the two Councils now share the delivery of Environmental Health Services. Licensing is another area where partnership working has been expanded and there is a general move to share senior officers across several authorities. Internally, SDC and the Sevenoaks police now share a front desk service in addition to the police presence working alongside the Community Safety Team and there are now plans for further expansion. There is a possibility that the police will move their police station completely to the SDC offices. Moat Housing also has eight desks within the Council offices. These arrangements have several benefits not least in the reduction of running costs as well as making more efficient use of office space.

One extremely popular introduction this year has been the Big Community Fund which offers grant funding of up to £3000 for projects that benefit local groups or communities. A panel of Councillors judge each application against set criteria. To date over £65,000 has been allocated including the full grant request for providing a new lighting board system for Chiddingstone Causeway Village Hall.

Various changes in legislation are expected which will affect the Council, particularly in the areas of Benefits and Planning, in addition to those already anticipated- for instance the Localism Bill and possible new responsibilities relating to health and well being. Perhaps the Paper which most concerns people is the revised planning guidance. Whilst it has been designed to speed up the whole process it has also generated fears about the true status of greenfield sites and the Green Belt in general. However the District Council has clearly stated within the LDF its determination to safeguard this land for both present and future generations.

Looking ahead to September some of the ParaOlympic Games are to be held at Brands Hatch, which is tremendously exciting news for the whole of the District.

Also on th horizon is the future of the old Glaxo Smith Kline site in the Powdermills for which a planning brief is being developed for consultation.

The Council continues to promote its four main priorities – the Community Plan, the Local Development Framework, balanced communities and value for money encompassing its core values of fairness, integrity and quality.

My thanks go to members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support and work this year.

7. Report by County Cllr Peter Lake

KCC has had to achieve savings of £340 million over four years and, in this last financial year the savings target was £95 million. Whilst we have not cut frontline services, we have had to reorganize our working practices to achieve these savings. Some 1500 people have either left or are about to leave our employment which is a most difficult task to perform as many have been loyal long service local government officers devoted to the needs of our community.

However, I am pleased to report that the KCC share of the council tax will be frozen for this coming financial year. The Police and Fire and Rescue services have done likewise.

I believe we have seen real progress this year with Kent Highway Services but there is still much work to do, particularly around our lanes. Jet patching will be undertaken to fill our potholes and hopefully many other roads in Leigh will receive attention during the summer months. I am very pleased to be able to report that the orders for the works by Laundry Cottage will be completed this week and the signage works will be done 6 to 10 weeks after that. I have also been told that an anti-skid surface is planned for the both the bends on the Hildenborough Road. I am still being told by Kent Highways that lower speed limits on rural roads are not realistic without the enforcement as a deterrent effect. There needs to be a concerted effort by all parties, particularly the police, acting to reduce the antisocial and selfish attitude of some road users. I am still keen to reduce the speed limit on all roads serving Hildenborough Station.

I am very worried about the increase in the numbers of children trying to get to the school of their choice. In my division, Sevenoaks South, which includes Edenbridge and the surrounding villages, we have seen a 37% increase in demand for children in the reception year (5 year olds) and certainly Leigh is not in a position to take any more children. The population growth means that we will have to find 550 extra secondary school places in West Kent per academic year by 2018. Already we are planning to build two new primary schools in Tunbridge Wells. Our primary schools remain in good shape and Leigh continues to produce excellent results. I am very pleased to be able to tell you that KCC has provided funding for the new extension

For the last 10 years Kent County Council has been promoting better broadband across the county. Our new KCC project is to deliver super fast broadband under the auspices of the government's latest programme for Kent and Medway. To make it happen we need evidence that this is something the people of Kent want to see. As a result I invite you all to register your interest at www.makekentquicker.com. If we achieve our aim the work will start early in 2013 and will cover more than 90% of properties in the county and we include Leigh in this figure.

It is good to have some good news for a change. Edenbridge Hospital Minor Injuries Unit will now be open seven days a week from 8.30am to 8pm. 148,000 people went to A&E to be treated for cuts, bumps and bruises - most of them could have received fast track treatment at a minor injuries unit.

I would like to thank the chairman, the councillors and your clerk for their patience in helping to deal with the various issues over the past year.

8. Reports by representatives of Leigh parish clubs, societies and organisations

i. Leigh Primary School

Mrs Ani Lawrence said that the school has a huge amount to be proud of. The children are gorgeous and are a privilege to teach. The National Curriculum tests were successful and the creative curriculum has been popular. The school has enjoyed a number of visitors: lambs, puppies, chickens, with talks by farmers, the police, the vet etc. There is a close link with the church, which is hugely enriching. The school has enjoyed sporting success especially in netball and dancing, and children are encouraged to take up a musical instrument. The school building is small, and it has become necessary to build a new classroom. The school is on target to raise £96,000 and the building work will start at the beginning of June. Many thanks to all those on the fund raising committee and, as a thank you, the school will put on a big open-air production of A Midsummer Night's Dream on 6th July to which everyone is invited.

- ii. Leigh Cricket Club
Mr Nigel Shaw, secretary of the Cricket Club, said that the club now has two Saturday sides with 22 players in the Kent County Cricket division. Friendly games are played on Sunday afternoons and training sessions are held on Thursday evenings, together with children's Kwik Cricket on Sunday mornings. New members are welcome. The Cricket Club owns the land where the current pavilion stands, which was built in 1972. It is now necessary to upgrade the current pavilion by modernizing the interior and enhancing the exterior. A working party has been formed and advice is being kindly given by Peter Hawkins and John Hughes, for which the club is grateful. 440 questionnaires were circulated to residents and 80 were completed and returned. Of these responses, 88% were in favour of refurbishment. A planning application is currently being prepared, and if successful, several years of fund raising will then begin. The anticipated cost of the work is £160,000. Details can be found on www.leighcc.co.uk.
- iii. Leigh United Charities
Sally Bresnahan reported that the charity is slightly down on income and up on expenditure as the heating needed to be upgraded in one of the cottages. Excess of income over expenditure was £2,500. There are 90 beneficiaries of the charity and 88 of those received a Christmas gift. The charity has helped pupils at Leigh Primary School with speech therapy, and one university student to purchase books.
- iv. The Crandalls Charity
Colin Stratton-Brown reported that the income last year was £2,000, of which £600 was given to Leigh Primary School. The charity supports the scouts and the youth in the village, and will give an additional small grant to the school towards their new classroom project.
- v. Leigh Tennis Club
Rob Swallow reported that the club had 70 members ten years ago, and 220 members now. There are two hard tennis courts, floodlights and a new pavilion. New members would be welcome, even non-playing members. There are 70 children who play at the club, and there is children's coaching on Saturday mornings. The tennis coaches have done a brilliant job.
- vi. Leigh Royal British Legion
Brian Ball said that the club was formed after World War II by the home-coming soldiers. Colin Stratton-Brown is chairman of the branch, and there is a private members' club, membership of which gives access to any club in the world. The joining fee is £17 per annum, and the club is open:-
- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday to Friday | 19.30 to 23.00 |
| Saturday | 17.30 to 23.00 |
| Sunday | 12.00 to 15.00, and 19.30 to 22.30 |
- During March and April, the club opened at 17.30 as a trial, and a decision will be made at the next meeting whether to continue with this new opening time in future. The club is not in competition with the pub, and does not want the pub to close. The club has a turnover of between £60,000-£65,000, and currently has 180 members. Members are considering modernizing the club, which is likely to cost £60,000.
- vii. Leigh Historical Society
Chris Rowley said that membership of the society is healthy, and members have enjoyed some excellent speakers. There is a gigantic website, and it is hoped that the society can start to do more with the school, possibly starting a junior historical society?

viii. Leigh Bowls Club

Peter Croft reported that the club is short of members and would welcome new-comers. The club meets on Tuesday evenings, and is the strongest team in the Sevenoaks league.

9. Questions from members of the public, matters for reporting and diary dates

It was asked whether the Parish Council would take into account the impact on the community and the school if the two proposed developments on land to the rear of Garden Cottages, and the GSK site in Powdermills, are successful. Cllr Stratton-Brown reported that the Parish Council will consider the impact of both developments when the relevant planning applications are received.

Cllr Stratton-Brown thanked everyone very much for coming.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm

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The following reports were received, but time constraints did not allow them to be read out.

Report by The Police:

Kent Police has recently launched the new non-emergency contact number which is 101, this is to be used for reporting crimes, incidents, making enquiries and contacting local officers. This number can be used 24/7 and calls cost no more than 15p even from a mobile. The emergency number remains the same (999)

There have also be changes to the Police Community Support Officer, I now cover the Leigh area. There will be regular surgeries where I will be available to speak to residents about any issues or enquiries in the village.

The next surgery is on the 27th of April 2012 at 10:00 in the mobile police station which will be parked near The Green.

PCSO Amy Hardy

Leigh Village Halls Management Committee – Annual Chairman’s Report - April 2012.

1. Refurbishment of the Village Halls

Over the last twelve months the Management committee have completed the following works:

1. Repaired and refurbished all the windows in the Small and Large Hall
2. Put up additional signage to make it easier to find your way around the Halls
3. Purchased 100 new ‘posh’ chairs (which are stored in the Large Hall) at a cost of £4000.
4. Installed smart new panelling over the existing panelling in the Large Hall
5. Started to collect research to help us start writing a ‘History of Leigh Village Halls’

In addition the British Legion have:

6. Landscaped the area under the Yew Trees; A number of people have commented on the attractively landscaped barbecue area to now be found under the Yew trees, outside the Doctor’s surgery. Many thanks go to the members of the Royal British Legion for the time and quality hard work they have put in to making that area an asset to the Halls.

The repairing and refurbishment of all the windows was the last part of the refurbishment of the Halls and with this completed, we are in a position to say the refurbishment of the Small and Large Halls has been completed. Thanks to everyone who over the last 7 years has got involved in one way or another with raising the £250,000 and helping us sort out all the refurbishment work.

2. Ongoing Maintenance of the Village Halls

The Halls will now need regular maintenance, and we have funds saved up to enable us to carry out maintenance as is needed, to keep the Halls in good condition. To ensure these maintenance plans can

continue, even if members of the management committee change, we have this year put in place regular health and safety checks as well as annual, electrics, heating and general maintenance contracts. We will in addition be working with ACRE to gain the Hallmark (excellence in Management of Village Halls) Award levels 2 and 3; we have already gained level 1.

3. Financial Performance of the Village Halls

Below is a summary of the financial performance for the normal day to day activities of the Village Halls, over the last 7 years, from when we started fundraising for the refurbishment of the Halls in 2003 to December 2011 (excluding the money raised for and spent on the refurbishment).

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Revenue from hiring halls	3809	4959	6712	5593	8642	9682	11047	10256	10866
Revenue from leases	3500	3500	3620	3620	4097	3874	7473	7648	7750
Other revenue (incl. parish council grant)	3092	6189	3542	3322	2496	2877	(1749)	355	0
Total Revenue	10401	14648	13874	12535	15235	16433	16174	18259	18616
Heating/lighting	1283	0	0	0	18	38	3051	6196	5382
Rent/rates/water	2374	892	2107	2546	892	1388	1277	1343	1037
Insurance	2052	2373	2673	2768	1508	2181	1966	1653	1893
Cleaning	2601	2621	2724	3213	3489	3150	3812	3512	3770
Maintenance	3308	3064	422	785	1069	597	2107	5640	3952
Total Costs	11626	8950	7926	9312	6976	7354	12213	18344	16034
Profit/Loss	(1225)	5698	5948	3223	8259	9079	3961	(85)	2582
Funds in Bank	9162	29568	48593	15277	28819	23770	24067	24780	21600

Highlights of the accounts include:

Income: Revenue from hiring the halls has increased by nearly 200%, whilst rentals have remained virtually unchanged. The Small Hall is now almost fully booked, whilst the Large Hall is booked every evening and is seeing a large number of weekend bookings from spring to autumn. We now have regular lease income from the British Legion and Doctor's surgery. We no longer require an annual grant from the Parish council to keep us running

Costs: Water rates have been halved due to eliminating leaks, which due to a regular monitoring system are quickly identified and fixed. Insurance costs have been reduced by 9%. After 6 years of chasing the gas and electricity companies we have finally been able to pay for the usage, with back payments being agreed and accepted in 2010 and 2011 (hence the lack of heating/lighting costs in 2004-2008).

Profits: whilst usage has risen nearly 200%, costs have only risen by 110% and the Halls are now running profitably, including funding maintenance of about £4000 per annum.

4. Plans for the next 12 months:

Over the next 12 months the Management Committee intend to:

1. Redecorate and then thoroughly spring clean the Halls (this is likely to be in late spring/early summer)
2. Refurbish the Small Hall floor.
3. Clean the outside stonework
4. Review and install a microphone system in the Large Hall.
5. Apply for Hallmark level 2 and 3 awards.
6. Continue to develop 'The History of the Village Halls'
7. St George's day celebration: Due to popular demand the committee are running a St George's Day party, on Saturday 21st April. Some of the funds will go towards the fundraising for the refurbishment of the Royal British Legion clubroom.

Helen Everett (Chairman)

April 2012.