

**Minutes of Electronic Correspondence of the Trustees of the
Educational Foundation of Abigail Bailey and Ann Levett
On 28th December 2023**

Participating:

Melvyn Wooding (Chair), Raymond Dyer, Andrew Seaman, Arthur Wright,
Sharen Hegarty (Trustees), Adrian Dale (Clerk)

2023.19 December

The Clerk presented the December Caretakers' Service Claims and Clerk's report.

	Link to: Rachael Maywood's Service Log	Labour	Expenses
VH	Village Hall Caretaker	£124.05	£9.18
VHP	Village Hall Projects		
SH	School House Caretaker		
SHP	School House Projects		
	Sub Totals	£124.05	£9.18
		Total	£134.03

	Link to: Maxine Routledge's Service Log	Labour	Expenses
VH	Village Hall Caretaker	£63.75	
	Sub Totals	£63.75	
		Total	£63.75

	Link to: Joe Routledge's Service Log	Labour	Expenses
VH	Village Hall Caretaker	£57.32	
VHP	Village Hall Projects		
	Sub Totals	£57.32	
		Total	£57.32

Clerk's Report:

Rachael has dealt with 4 mice this month. Some have been in the "mouse" cupboard and one has been above the kitchen. We have attempted to block all holes, but clearly they have still found routes in.

School House:

Cable shrouding has been removed from School House as planned.

Hall usage:

December's usage was 51 hours, well down on 2022 as the ballet academy principal caught COVID and cancelled a week of classes and her Christmas party. Overall the usage of the Hall has been 19% lower than 2022 and 37% down on our 2019 peak year. This decline is concerning, but reflects combined effects of the loss of classes as a result of the pandemic, and the 50% increase in hire charges in 2023 resulting from the energy crisis.

Month	2023 Hours	2023 Hire Income	2022 Hours	2022 Hire Income	Reason for difference between 2023 and 2022
January	87	£1,031	72	£583	Two new morning sessions a week
February	112	£1,561	129	£1,028	No gamer weekend in 2023
March	115	£1,501	139	£1,117	Weekend scout sleep over in 2022
April	87	£1,271	170	£1,381	Two 2022 gaming weekends not repeated
May	113	£1,422	137	£958	305th Memorial weekend was in 2022 and was a free of charge event
June	112	£1,533	136	£1,137	In 2022 there was a gaming weekend and scout weekend
July	62	£823	81	£653	The Ballet Academy was 20 hours down on 2022
August	36	£531	32	£258	
September	115	£1,250	98	£870	Two parties in 2023 and a gaming weekend
October	75	£959	142	£1,187	Gaming weekend in 2022
November	114	£1,416	125	£1,110	Fewer regular classes
December	51	£746	76	£745	
Totals	1,079	£14,048	1,338	£11,066	

The impact on the Village Hall operating budget has been significant with a loss of £439.

The loss is much less than budgeted (£2,935). This largely reflects lower utility bills than projected because of lower usage, a warmer spring and autumn, and a Government energy rebate of £426. The caretaker fees are higher than projected because of the change in the minimum wage which wasn't budgeted for in 2023. However, we were fortunate that no equipment failed in 2023 meaning that our £500 budget for that was untouched.

We entered our new 3 year energy contract on 23rd December. The standing charges on this contract are increasing by 5p a day. However, unit charges have fallen by 46% as I took the opportunity to fix in late Spring when there was a lull in the Ukraine war, which sent energy prices tumbling. Based on the same usage, our utility bills will fall by £2,100, around **£2.03** for each paid hour of hire (1,032 hours in 2023). Last year we increased hire fees by **£1.00/hr** for general inflation and added a fuel surcharge of **£4.00/hr**. This reflected the 300% increase in our energy bills after our 3 year fixed contract ended at the end of 2022. We told our regular hirers that we would reduce the energy surcharge when we could.

However, I am struggling to see how we can achieve this if usage levels continue as they are (or fall). A rebate of £1.00/hr for our regular hirers (810 hours) would have a significant impact on our hire income and push us back into loss.

It was **RESOLVED** by majority of Trustees to approve this report and authorize the payment of the invoices.



Adrian Dale (Clerk)



Melvyn Wooding (Chair)