

# MSC Chairman's Report for Annual Parish Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

## Key commentary on Wickhambrook MSC activities

### **About the Management Team.**

As Chair, I am very proud to work with this talented and committed team of Trustees

Sandy Wood – Secretary

Gloria Harrison - Vice Chair

Barbara Merritt – Treasurer

Beverly Harding – Bookings Manager

Ken Mayes – Trustee

Sylvie Radley – new Trustee this year.

Without these dedicated and hard-working Trustees, the hall couldn't function. They all take on tasks above and beyond the expectations of a Trustee, including gardening, painting, repairs, and problem solving as well as their normal Trustee role.

### **About the hall.**

- Over the last 18 months we have continued to make small cosmetic changes to the hall and also offered free use of the hall to any organisations that wanted to organise charitable or community meetings.
- Recently, with a significant contribution from a donor/user, we have re-equipped the main hall with modern, highly controllable, stage lighting. This was at a net cost to us (after the donation) of circa £5,000. This gives the hall added appeal.

- We are in a good financial position with strong reserves and continuing to make an operating net profit, mostly due to:
  - Revenue from bookings - both regular and occasional.
  - Recycling bins income
  - Scene advertising
- The Farmers Market has returned to the hall.
- It is good to see that the football pitch has recently been used by a team from Thurlow and they have indicated that they like the facilities so much that they plan to make this their home for one of their teams next football season.
- The Lottery however has ceased to be cost-effective and a decision was made not to continue with this in 2024.
- The Trustees approved the purchase of two pictures – one of Elizabeth II and the other of Charles III – for display in the pavilion.
- We continue to modernise all the lighting throughout – replacing inefficient/uneconomical bulbs and fittings with energy efficient LED.

## **Our challenges**

1. Finding and funding a cost effective and climate friendly way to heat the building.
2. Succession planning - It is becoming more important to find new trustees
3. Community event organisers/co-ordinators – It would be great to have more family events or themed evenings, but this requires commitment, time, and energy.

Steve Thwaite,

Chair of Trustees

Wickhambrook MSC.

25<sup>th</sup> April 2024