

Tacolneston & Forncett Recreation Association

The year has been one of change since the last AGM. A number of new committee members have volunteered, joining an experienced and committed team.

Although the charity lost over £1000 in the last financial year, the new committee have taken steps to meet our strategy of increasing the hall's appeal and usage (therefore our income) and to reduce our costs.

Increased Appeal / Income

- We have attracted a number of new groups and we will continue to do this over the next year.
- As a community asset, the committee have also opened a free 'social hub' every Tuesday mornings for anyone in the village to join us. It's frequented by mainly older residents who enjoy good company and light refreshments. This has been well attended and will continue as a free event for the foreseeable future. The people that come appreciate this and make voluntary donations that contribute towards the Hall's costs. Thanks should go to Tim and Theresa for their drive and dedication in making this happen.
- Installation of a disabled toilet. We were fortunate to be offered free advice and architectural drawings from Agora Architects based at Hethel. From this, we were able to obtain quotations to select an appropriate scheme. Thanks to the support of our District Councillor, Kim Carsok, we secured a grant from the CAF fund for £11,000. That, together with a generous grant of £8,000 from the Parish Council enabled us to go ahead with the project, completed by local builders Norfolk Rise Ltd.
- We have also been extremely fortunate to gain grants to install EV car chargers from NCC and also Solar Panels from South Norfolk Council totalling £20,000. These will support both the local community and Village Hall financially. Implementation is planned in November, subject to appropriate permissions being granted.
- Other smaller grants have been also been received and welcomed for other improvements and we thank our District Councillor, Kim Carsok, once again for her support.
- Children's play area clean up and the Hall 'big clean' before re-opening after building work.

Cost Savings

- We have moved to a cheaper rate with EON, protected for 2 years.
- We have just changed broadband provider offering free broadband to the Hall.
- To help control costs, two of our committee members have agreed to take on cleaning responsibilities. The committee thanks our previous cleaner, Katie Crowson, for her work and support over past few years.

Maintenance Issues

- There are many improvements we would like to make to the Hall (upgraded toilets, kitchen, insulation, door entrance, car park, children's play area, solar batteries, heating etc.). We will need to consider how these are prioritised as how they may be funded.
- Mains water – a leak has been identified between the Hall and meter. The meter has been replaced by Anglian Water and a faulty meter has been ruled out. We are awaiting an engineer to identify where the problem is and what can be done to rectify.

We would also like to thank our regular users of the Hall for their support, particularly during the building works.

It should also be noted that a long standing committee member, Bethan, will be standing down. She will be missed but we thank her for her service to the community and wish her all best for the future.

Paul Butcher

On behalf of TAFRA committee

4/11/2024