Hintlesham and Chattisham Community – mid-year update

I am really pleased to say that the Community Council activities are starting to return to pre-covid levels; however, it is still early days.

* The re-formed Events Committee have been working hard with the Social Club Committee and the Hall Management Committee in organising events once again, starting with a very successful Bingo Night and then an Oktoberfest.
* I must say I’m delighted to have John Whyman elected as Social Club Chair; together with his very hardworking committee members, they are building a great atmosphere for members to have a drink and enjoy each other’s company.
* Richard DeBanks is doing amazing work in re-scheduling new and existing hirers and to help them use the Hall in a safe and secure manner.
* The more eagle eyed of you may notice the area around the hall is looking smarter, for which Jane Whyman and her Hall Environs team members must take full credit.
* We have taken on a contractor (Jason Bullard) to maintain the Hintlesham and Chattisham playing fields which are looking far healthier and in better condition due to his fantastic stewardship. Jason also helped replace fencing between the field and The Old Rectory which was in very poor condition.
* Mark Smith, with his regular Woodland Working Parties are making serious improvements to the Church Belt woodland, and in the spring, Mark worked with external contractors to make safe trees close to the A1071.
* Annie Eaton has done a great job running the 200 Club for many years; she has now handed over the reins to Liz Stones and Jill Warner to continue her excellent work with the able assistance of her collectors. The draw now takes place in the Hall the last Friday of every month so, please, come along and watch - and perhaps stay for a drink.

Treasurer’s Interim Report - As at 30 September 2021

In 2021 the Hintlesham & Chattisham Community Council’s ordinary course of business was once again impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. The restrictions early in the year meant that the Community Hall had to close once more and all income from the hire of the hall ceased. Fortunately, grants were available from Babergh DC and the H&CCC received a total of £17,374 between January and May 21 , this included a grant of £8,000 to assist with ‘reopening’ costs.

With Hall hire starting again properly in June and with revenue from other income streams such as playing field hire, recycling and the monthly draw etc, the total income achieved for the 9 months to 30 September 21 was £29,773.

Thanks to the grants received both this year and last, the Community Council has had sufficient funds to be able to proceed with some substantial projects already agreed to prior to the pandemic. The Community Council has been involved in the funding of two main projects so far this year.

The playground at the Hintlesham playing field was resurfaced, this work was funded by the Parish Council but the H&CCC contributed £11,000 towards the cost. Unfortunately, when the resurfacing began it was discovered that remedial work was also required to repair the legs of the play equipment itself due to decay. The Community Council met this unexpected cost of £4,493.

The second major project undertaken was the felling of trees in the Woodland Church Belt surrounding the Community Hall. The trees had been identified as unsafe so this essential work at a cost of £8,500 was carried out in March 21.

Other smaller projects included the repairing of the fence between the Hintlesham playing field and the Old Rectory at a cost of £1,826 and the resetting of the goal posts on the playing field.

It is hoped, that with the successful reopening of the hall and steady increase in revenue, the Community Council will be able to plan for essential maintenance on its property and consider improvements for the future.

We could really do with your help!

I conclude with an appeal.

Running our facilities is all done by our very generous volunteers, but we are always looking for extra willing hands. If you can spare a few hours a month, then please let us know. No specific skills are required, just enthusiasm and a willingness to muck in. Our tasks vary from helping run events, serving behind the bar, filling in rabbit holes in the playing fields, through to becoming more involved in our committees. If you have the time and interest, we can find a satisfying role for you! Our sole purpose is to provide services to the Hintlesham and Chattisham Community, so to enable us to keep providing services, please get involved; join us, help us out and have some fun!

Full information about the Parish Council and the Community Council. What Is On, who to contact etc. can be found on this link <http://hintleshamandchattisham.onesuffolk.net>

Feedback is really welcome so please feel to comment and contribute to village life.

Tym Moore

Chair – Hintlesham and Chattisham Community Council