

## **Mendlesham Community Centre Charity Chairs and Financial report for the AGM 15.5.19**

### **Chairs report:**

Working in partnership with the school, the building has benefited from an improved fire system, new internal doors, external cladding, guttering and redecoration of the Main Hall, the stage lights now all work. The Small Hall also now has a new sound system and projector- thank you to Mendlesham Community Council who provided the idea and majority of the funds. New doors been provided for the Small Hall from Mendlesham Parish Council funds.

Whilst the majority of this work has been at no or little cost to Mendlesham Community Centre Charity, our overheads have increased outside our control, particularly utility costs.

After much consideration, we have reviewed our charging system and increased fees from 1st September 2019. This is necessary to keep the building available and to the required standard. Whilst we were able to keep the hire fees the same since 2016, we now have to increase fees from September and will review this annually, increasing as a minimum by inflation.

We have also taken the opportunity to review our hire fee structure to make the arrangements fair and transparent for all and hope to attract new hire, particularly over weekends and school holidays.

Mendlesham Parish Council has received a £3000 MSDC Locality grant towards the provision of LED lights with decisions about where and when to be made shortly. We have also reviewed our other utility costs to ensure we keep costs to a minimum and will be reviewing cleaning arrangements as well.

### **Mendlesham Community Centre Charity, Financial Accounts for the year ending 31.3.19:**

The year end 31.3.19 shows a decline with a year end figure of £7568.06 compared to the year end 31.3.18 £10463.19 and year end 31.3.17 £12001.

There is a significant down trend which for the year end 31.3.19 . £7568.06 includes £737 allocated to an ear marked reserve for rejuvenation/capital purposes ie not day to day costs, some £1500 allocated towards a building insurance valuation, works required to a damaged drain of estimated at some £500 and utility costs due since the beginning of 2019.

This, despite continuing support from Mendlesham Community Council with an annual grant of £2k which is not guaranteed as we go forward.

Work has taken place during the year to address this trend with hire fees increasing from September 2019 and to be reviewed annually thereafter. It is anticipated that hire fees may have to be increased significantly again next year. Work has also commenced to market the Community Centre to increase hire during school holidays and weekends when the building is not fully utilised. However this has to be at a profit rather than loss. There is also the risk that more hire could lead to increased

costs such as cleaning.

Mendlesham Parish Council has provided grants of nearly £10k over the last two years towards security lighting, CCTV , new doors required for the upgraded fire protection system which cannot be relied upon as a source of funding for the future.

As trustee, the Mendlesham Parish Council cannot operate the charity in a deficit situation. Further work to turn this situation around is a priority.

Cllrs Exley and Gardiner, Messrs Downie and Whomes have continued to help with maintenance repairs which make a huge difference to the finances and our Co ordinator Rachel Brown continues to provide an excellent service to hirers as first point of contact for the Community Centre. Thank you.

The Community Centre Charity holds ordinary meetings monthly which are open to the public so if you have any issues that need discussing, either speak with Rachel or Sharon or come to a charity meeting.