

Sports & Social Club

Update for Parish Council Annual Meeting, 30th May 2022

(written 21st May 2022)

The Sports and Social club continues to tick over, albeit with a finely balanced financial situation, which Alan Batley (Treasurer) continues to navigate with great skill. The past couple of years have been financially precarious, and the Committee would like to especially thank Deborah for all of her hard work during Covid times, successfully accessing Grant support for us. These grants have been essential to keep us afloat during times when we were unable to make any income.

Since Covid restrictions lifted, we have been delighted to welcome back Abbey Smith and her Bridge club, as well as our other regular users such as the mobile Post Office, Parish Council meetings, Whist, Bingo and of course the Cricket team.

As a committee, in recent months we have welcomed Deborah Robinson and Cath Bowden as new committee members, both of whom are a great asset to our team. With little success to date, we are also still trying to boost the number of bar staff volunteers, to man the bar during events such as the VPA show, during bar opening on Sunday lunchtimes, and during Home cricket matches.

Thank-you as ever to all our Committee Members and Volunteers who continue to give their time and resources to keeping the Clubhouse running as a valuable village resource.

Kirsty Foley
Chairman
Drayton Parslow Sports & Social Club.

Greenacre Hall Report 2022

In May this year it is 20 years since the Greenacre Hall opened and most of the current committee have served for an additional five years during the fund raising phase and now have an average age of over 71 so would really welcome new committee members to help the Hall serve the current needs of the local community.

The hall is well supported and used extensively for badminton, kick boxing, the village school, short mat bowls, yoga, a concert band, MK Auctions, children's parties and other functions. It is provided free of charge each year for the VPA show. It is pleasing that bookings have now returned to pre Covid levels which, together with the government grants during Covid, means that the hall is currently well funded. We are very fortunate to have Roger Spanswick as our caretaker and the hall would not operate as smoothly as it does without him.

In the 202/21 financial year income fell to just £2,000 due to the Covid restrictions but government grants of over £21,000 more than made up for the loss of income and meant that in the 2021/22 financial year the hall was able to replace the twenty year old fire alarm and the emergency lighting. In the 2022/23 the committee hope upgrade the rest of the lighting in hall to LED, replace the fuse box and replace the gas cooker with an electric cooker in an effort to make the hall more energy efficient.

The committee will continue to ensure that the building is well maintained and would welcome any ideas for improvements to the facilities it offers but really needs new members with a vision for the future needs of the village."

Chairman's report 2022 APM

After a tough couple of years for everyone and in light of world events it's actually hard to think of notable comments to make regarding the PC. We've had fewer meetings, some via Zoom (but without the Jackie Weaver experience) and had three councilors not seek re-election, but have added one councilor and (I hope) another one this evening so we are only one short.

Our clerk resigned which didn't help matters, but we've struggled through so far. Hopefully light at the end of the tunnel in recruiting a replacement.

Those of us that remain have worked hard to keep up with things and I'd like to thank everyone for their support in trying times, whilst also working.

The various village committees continue to rely on the hard work by a core group of volunteers, and I hope they won't mind me mentioning that none of us are getting any younger, but with the cost of housing being what it is, I do wonder where the new blood is going to come from. We have also lost one of our energetic contributors, without Barrie some of the glue in the village seems to have weakened and we are all the poorer for it.

The village plan has inched its way forward, hopefully we are on the final lap to a review by a planning inspector, and we have (touch wood) been relatively free of predatory planning applications as we see the villages around us, particularly Newton Longville being gradually absorbed into greater Milton Keynes.

As a small village I believe that we continue to punch above our weight from a point of view of leisure facilities, and it's good to see that they are well used and a good application of our precept funds.

Without wishing to tempt fate, I take the fact that we have had almost no public attendance at our meetings as a general view of our residents that we are doing an OK job and as I step back from being chairman I look forward to supporting the PC team from the back benches in the year ahead.