

## **Ashfield Community Council – Treasurer’s Report for year to 31.03.2025**

Again this has been a very healthy year for the Village Hall, both in terms of activities and financial surplus.

Although the surplus appears to be down compared with last year (£465 v £2318), this year’s figure is after incurring net expenditure of £2130 on the much needed installation of sound baffling panels. Hence the underlying surplus increased by 12%.

The main features of change can be summarised as follows:

### **Income**

#### 1. Lettings

Letting income increased further, after the large increase the previous year, as the hall continued to be used more. As well as the contribution from fortnightly Stained Glass classes of £1020, there were weekly Pilates classes (£400), and Karate classes (£240). These will all continue with bookings made well into next year. New visitors to the Hall continue to be complimentary about its condition and especially the quality of the floor.

#### 2. Events

Net income from events and the barbecue increased by £30, with events being generally well supported

#### 3. Cyclists

The income from the regular visits of 2 cycling groups to the hall for refreshments mid-ride appears to be well down this year, but this is primarily because we took a break from catering for the Cycle Clubs’ Audax event which last year generated nearly £500. The cyclists value the cakes and scones, made by the wonderful cakemakers in the village, to such an extent that even when there is inclement weather, they still come in their cars for their mid-morning refreshments.

#### 4. Interest

Interest income of £470 was received as nearly £20,000 was on deposit for the full year.

## **Expenditure**

### 1. Sound Baffling Panels

The major expenditure in the year was £3,130 for the installation of sound baffling panels on the ceiling. A grant of £1,000 was received from the locality budget of Councillor Hicks of Suffolk County Council, for which we are very grateful. It seems to be generally agreed that the panels have had a beneficial impact on the acoustics of the Hall.

### 2. Electricity

The cost of electricity was again higher as the full year impact of previous cost increases impacted, together with the increases in letting and events during the winter months meaning that heaters were used more than previously. A lower tariff means that this cost will reduce this year.

The surplus for the year has further enhanced reserves to a level of £21,000. The recent investment and replacement of the floor means that most of the hall structure is in pretty good shape. However the possible requirement to replace the roof remains ever present such that it is only prudent to maintain a healthy reserve level. While the increased levels of income seen this year are likely to continue, the one-off expenditure items are unlikely to be repeated, such that a reasonable surplus should continue next year.

I would like to offer my thanks to the members of the committee, and other volunteers, who have assisted at events and in maintenance of the hall and its surroundings.

Geoff Henney  
Treasurer

15.04.25