

Ashfield Community Council – Treasurer’s Report for year to 31.03.2026

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

The surplus for the year appears to be significantly up compared with last year (£2293 v £465), but last year’s figure was after incurring net expenditure of £2130 on the much needed installation of sound baffling panels. This year, £1040 was spent on removing the tree stumps and replacing the overgrown shrubbery at the side of the Hall. Hence the underlying surplus before one-off expenditure increased by 28%.

The main features of change can be summarised as follows:

Income

1. Lettings

Letting income continued to increase significantly 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 £900, there were weekly Pilates classes (£344), and Karate classes (£190). Additionally the Earl Soham Carpet Bowls Club have been coming every Monday evening since 1st October and have contributed £805. Originally they were only coming for 6 months before returning to Earl Soham Village Hall for the summer, but have now decided to stay with us indefinitely. This and the other bookings should ensure that letting income remains very healthy into next year.

2. Events

Net income from events and the barbecue increased by £200, 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 is up £130 at £750. 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 £370 was £100 less than last year’s lower interest rates offset the increased amount on deposit.

Expenditure

1. Trees, Shrubs, BBQ

The major expenditure in the year was £1040 for the removal of tree stumps and the replacement of the overgrown shrubs. A Barbecue was also purchased for £260.

2. Electricity

The cost of electricity was modestly lower as the lower tariffs in the year more than offset the increases in letting and events during the winter months meaning that heaters were used more than previously. Electricity costs are anticipated to be considerably higher this year which may necessitate raising hiring fees for the winter months.

The surplus for the year has further enhanced reserves to a level of over £23,000. 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. The increased levels of income seen this year are likely to continue, 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

12.04.26