

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date

Period end date

From

1 1 2022

To

31 12 2022

Section A

Reference and administration details

Charity name

Humshaugh Village Hall

Other names charity is known by

n/a

Registered charity number (if any)

509449

Charity's principal address

Humshaugh Village Hall

Humshaugh

Hexham

Postcode

NE46 4AA

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Diana Linnett	Chair/elected member		
2	Marie Roberts	Secretary/Representative member		
3	David Scott	Treasurer/Representative member		
4	Tim Taylor	Elected member		
5	Mick Jonas	Elected member		
6	Chris Robinson	Representative member		
7	Jenny Nohl	Representative member		
8	Peter Woodward	Elected member		
9	Alex Chylak	Elected member		
10	Jo Common	Elected member		
11	Andrew Roberts	Co-opted member	June 2022 – July 2022	
12	Wendy Reed	Representative member	March 2022 – June 2022	
13	Wendy Reed	Co-opted member	June 2022	
14	Derek Burgess	Co-opted member	Sept 2022	
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
n/a	

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Examiner		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Scheme dated 21/02/1980 as amended by order dated 03/01/1996 as amended on 09/02/2009 as amended by resolution dated 01/12/2011 as amended on 12/03/2019
How the charity is constituted	Trust
Trustee selection methods	5 representative members appointed by their organisations. 6 members elected at the AGM. 1 member representing the Parish Council. Opportunity for additional co-optative members to total of 12.

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

New trustees are provided with information regarding their roles and responsibilities.

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The provision and maintenance of the village hall for the use of the inhabitants of the parish of Humshaugh and that part of the parish of Warden in the county of Northumberland without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Hall provides public benefit by the provision of facilities for the following activities:

- weekly yoga and pilates classes
- badminton sessions x 2 per week
- monthly meeting of the Women's Institute
- weekly art classes
- rehearsals for drama group
- plays
- choir
- ad hoc meetings for other community groups
- parish council meetings
- ad hoc social events, both community and private
- Warm Hub
- regular coffee mornings and fundraising activities
- film club
- use of kitchen for bread making and other cooking facilities

The Committee is responsible for ensuring that access is available for all these groups; that such access is affordable; that the facilities are kept in a good state of repair and cleanliness; that the necessary statutory regulations regarding such activities are adhered to and that the financial status of the charity remains viable either through funds from hiring the premises or from grant funding.

Trustees are aware of the guidance on public benefit and, when making decisions have had due regard to the commission's public benefit guidance when exercising and powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

All Members are volunteers and give their time for meetings, to open up the hall for users when required, to undertake maintenance tasks, to ensure compliance with regulations etc.

You may choose to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

We are pleased to report that hall use has recovered during the year to pre-Covid levels and indeed 2 pilates classes, which came to us during covid because we could offer good facilities for social distancing, have stayed with us on a permanent basis. We have welcomed a new Youth Club and Warmhub sessions.

Like so many organisations we were severely affected by the increased electricity prices. Our 3 year supply contract ended at the end of March 2022 and the best terms that we could find for the new contract resulted in a doubling of the price. Under these circumstances we entered in to a 12 month contract and wait to see what terms we will be able to get from April 2023.

In view of the price increase we felt that we had no option other than to increase the hire charges by 20% across the board. This does not cover the full cost of the price increase and the trustees felt that the balance could be covered by the grant funding that we had received during covid. Once we know what the new charges will be we will review the hall hire charges once again.

Perhaps because of the increased cost of electricity, we were advised that, from December 31st, Northumberland County Council would no longer be able to reimburse the cost of 'free' electricity for car charging. As the charging point was already in place, the Trustees investigated the possibility of changing the charging point to a pay-as-you-go supply. This has taken longer to implement than we had hoped but it should be operational by March 2023. As we have no idea how much this will be used and therefore what revenues we might expect from it, Humshaugh Community Ventures Limited has agreed to mitigate any losses that HVH might incur when covering the fixed cost of the charging point.

We have continued to improve the hall facilities during the year by

undertaking the following works which were funded by covid grants:

- replacement of front and rear doors
- replacement of remaining strip lights with LEDs
- replacement of old thermostats with new SMART thermostats

The replacement of the doors completed the items that we had identified for the Refurbishment Project and Trustees agreed that the next project should concentrate on energy provision – in particular to be more sustainable, cheaper and more environmentally friendly. The first step was an energy audit which was funded by Community Action Northumberland and which recommended the use of solar energy backed up by a thermal store and batteries. Two of the other recommendations for more immediate improvement were the strip light and thermostat replacements which have both now been done (see above).

In regard to the possibility of using solar power, HVH applied to take part in a Rural Community Energy Project sponsored and led by CAN. A survey of the hall has recently been undertaken and we await the output of the Feasibility study for our hall. This is a county wide project which will involve, in the first instance some 38 halls who will make up a Co-Operative which will seek funding to supply the hardware, then manage the sale/purchase of power to members of the Co-op. This project is still in relatively early stages but is being modelled on another similar project elsewhere in the country. It is being led by the Rural Design Centre which is a Social Enterprise which has provided significant expertise to design and manage the many complexities of this project.

Last year I reported on problems with the boundary wall between St. Peter's churchyard and HVH northern boundary. Because of the possible risk from the wall access round the north end of the hall has remained closed during the year. Following a joint application from the church and hall to the Evans Trust, the necessary funds to undertake the work have been agreed and we await the availability of the builder to undertake the project.

During the year, we have worked with Humshaugh Parish Council on the development of an Emergency Plan. As the hall is a designated emergency centre, we applied for funding to Northern Powergrid for the provision of an LPG emergency generator with backup battery which could be used to provide light and heat in the event of a power loss in the village. To prepare for this a generator connection was installed and the generator itself ordered. The latter was delivered in late February but to date, the funds have not been received from Northern Powergrid although we are assured that they will come!

In June we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a Big Village Picnic. Unfortunately it was quite a chilly day however those that attended enjoyed the day and many thanks to all who helped to organise the event. Regular coffee mornings have continued throughout the year and are well supported.

In December the Hall became a designated Warmhub to join the network of Warmhubs around the county. Coffee and chat is provided free of charge to users on a weekly basis from 10 – 12 on a Tuesday. While there is still a limited number of regular attendees, those that do come enjoy it and look forward to the next session. This will be continued until the end of March and start again in early November. Use of the hall is

Section D

Achievements and performance

sponsored by Community Action Northumberland who fund the sessions under the Warmhub scheme. Lead volunteers received training in First Aid, Food hygiene and Dementia awareness.

Prior to Covid all halls had been offered the chance to participate in a county wide Heritage Project. Led by CAN and the Northumberland Archives and sponsored by the National Lottery, this will research and document the history and heritage of village halls. Halls were split into two tranches (HVH is in the second tranche) and work was about to begin when covid struck. In 2022, two years late, the first group began in earnest and HVH was approached towards the end of the year to be part of the second group. Training in how to use the archives/conservate documents and take oral histories is therefore being undertaken this year with the aim of completing our part of the project by the end of the year. Trustees would like to thank Alan Hodgson for volunteering to lead on this for HVH and would encourage anyone who might be interested in helping Alan to contact a committee member.

This has been a busy year for the hall and I would like to thank all Trustees for their dedication, energy and enthusiasm in, not only keeping things going on a day to day basis but in taking part in projects that we hope will ensure the sustainability of the hall in changing times and future years.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Reserves policy is reviewed annually and it was agreed to continue the policy that Reserves would be kept at 6 months running costs plus £3000 for urgent replacement of kitchen equipment. At year end this amounted to £8000.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You may choose to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The following principles continue to guide our financial decision-making:

Our funds are mainly sourced from lettings income which, by and large, covers the day to day running costs of the charity. These are reviewed annually in the light of any maintenance requirements.

On the whole, we expect lettings income to cover unexceptional costs with capital costs being raised by fundraising and grant applications.

We try to keep letting prices at a reasonable level to ensure that the hall can be accessed by all sections of the community.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Diana Linnett</i>	
Full name(s)	DIANA LINNETT	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	14.3.23	