

Middleton & Todridge Village Hall

Trustees Annual Report for the Period January 1 2023 to December 31 2023

Reference and administration details

Charity name Middleton & Todridge Village Hall

Other names charity is known by Middleton Village Hall

Registered charity number 522088

Charity's principal address
for correspondence 20 Rothwell Road
Newcastle upon Tyne

Tyne & Wear

NE3 1TY

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)
George Courtice	Chairman	From 06.02.2023	
Kate Freeman	Secretary		
Chris Hughes	Treasurer		
Ernie Coe	Chairman	01.01.23 to 06.02.2023	
Charlie Bennett			
Ernie Coe		From 06.02.23	
Thomas Coulson			
Elsie Green			Wallington Demesne Parish Council
Colin Snowball			
Corinna Waddell			
David Wilkinson			

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document:	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted	It is a non-company charity. A Committee of Management make up the administering trustees. There are a maximum of ten elected members, six representative members and co-opted members. There are no employees.
Trustee selection methods:	Trustees are elected annually at a meeting open to all those residents aged over 18 living in the area of benefit. Up to three members can also be co-opted.
Relationship with related parties:	<p>The land on which the property rests is leased from Mrs Julia Percy for a period ending March 2068. The Official Custodian is vested in the Charity Commission which acts as trustee for the charity in relation to the holding of title to the land.</p> <p>The Village Hall is a member of the North Northumberland Village Halls Consortium and the regional infrastructure organisation Voluntary Organisations Network North East (VONNE). It receives advice from Community Action Northumberland (CAN), one of England's 38 Rural Community Councils as well as Northumberland Community Voluntary Action (NCVA).</p>
Bank Arrangements:	The charity banks with the Unity Trust Bank plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB. It operates a deposit and current account and has secure internet access to both. Three trustees have signatory powers, two of whom must approve all payments. Since 2016 Unity Trust Bank has charged £18/quarter for servicing our accounts.

Objectives and activities

Objectives: Middleton Village Hall aims to provide the neighbourhood with a warm & welcoming place for community activities. Our trust deed refers to activities which have "the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants". The hall supplies an invaluable, community owned resource which allows local people to share experiences & activities in a safe and comfortable environment.

Activities: The hall is used for activities which benefit the surrounding communities. These include residents, groups and organisations wishing to have a convenient place to meet or stage an event. During 2023 one of the regular Pilates bookings was discontinued because of unavailability of the trainer due to ill health. The remaining weekly Pilates booking continued, as did Yoga and Table Tennis which grew in numbers and extended well into the summer months. The monthly winter meetings of the Wansbeck Natural History Group continued as did the Hartburn Community Project's Film nights during the late autumn and early spring. Leonard Brown and Maggie Adamson performed at the end of March at the well-attended retirement evening in recognition of Ernie Coe's long involvement with the hall. Fortunately, Ernie Coe still remains an active member of the Management Committee.

Other activities included three performances from Highlights Rural Touring Scheme: Opera for the People, Beyond Caring and Hayley's Little Big Band. The long established users who continued to make regular use of the hall's facilities included: Cambo Young Farmers, Middleton & District Leek Club and two cycle races. Hartburn Community Project also hosted several community lunches.

Achievements and performance

2023 saw another year of near record use. Footfall was only 5% lower than last year which was boosted by two well attended wedding celebrations and NHS training over 4 weeks. The Management Committee met formally on 5 separate occasions during the year. Hire charges: In September 2023 the trustees agreed to revise the hiring charge policy by still offering discounts on hourly rates to eligible local groups & residents.

Improvements & Plans During the first half of the year a hearing loop was installed to enable more people who used hearing aids to experience better sound. In response to requests from users we also installed permanent coat hooks at the west end of the main hall. Plans were also developed to protect the grass from vehicle damage at the front of the hall and to install LED lighting to the rest of the building - notably the toilet section and the kitchen. Importantly, we also discussed seeking ways of replacing our 15 year-old oil-boiler and at the same time reduce our carbon footprint as well as our energy bills.

Financial outcome 2023

Income from ordinary activities & funding events (excluding grants and compensation)	6098
Expenditure on ordinary activities & funding events (excluding capital investments)	<u>3973</u>
Net surplus for year on ordinary activities & funding events	2125

Despite no receipt of grants or compensation payments from utility companies, and with capital improvement costs of over £1400, we were still able to deliver a surplus of £1168 as a whole. See summary accounts

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

On December 31 2023 our unrestricted reserves were £40353.

For 2024 it was proposed and agreed that we increase three designated un-restricted funds to the following:

- a) A general fund equivalent to a minimum of 12 months' worth of operating costs. This is now estimated to be £4000.
- b) An emergency maintenance fund of £5000
- c) A refurbishment/energy/repair fund of £31,000

This is viewed as the best balance between the prudent management of the resources under our trust and the best use of the charity's resources to deliver its aims. This policy will be reviewed annually.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Not applicable

Further financial review details (Optional information)

Three trustees of the charity are listed as signatories on the bank accounts with two of the three required to approve cheques, on-line transactions and setting up of regular payments. An annual review of our charity's accounts is carried out by an independent person with the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination.

We prepare our accounts on a "receipts and payments" basis in accordance with Section 133 of the Charity Act 2011 for a non-company charity with a gross income of less than £250,000.

Signed

Chairman

Date

Treasurer

Date