

Request to Dorney Parish Council (DPC) from the Trustees of Dorney Village Hall (DVH) to consider becoming the Sole Trustee of the [Dorney Village Hall Charity No. 300255.](#)

In order to protect the long-term future and financial security of Dorney Village Hall, in which residents have invested approx. £200,000 (in 2023 equivalent money) over the last 53 years, the Trustees of DVH have agreed to ask DPC to consider becoming Sole Trustee of the DVH Charity. This would be achieved through a transfer of the charity according to the regulations of the Charity Commission.

Reasons for this request:

1. As with many village hall charities, it is becoming difficult to find trustees who are willing and able to take on that responsibility, as we have experienced recently.
2. It is the current trustees' responsibility to protect the long-term future of the charity.
3. Dorney Parish Council would bring the following attributes to the management of the charity:
 - a. It is rooted in the local community.
 - b. It is open and transparent in its dealings.
 - c. It is highly accountable for its actions.
 - d. It has the high standards of public conduct embedded in the way it works.
 - e. The Parish Clerk (Ruth Senior) is also working as Village Hall Manager and would continue to do so.
4. DPC could ensure security of future funding (through Public Works Loan Board), if required.
5. The original purpose and usage of DVH has changed significantly since the charity was set up in 1930.
6. For the community, the asset will be assured of effective management for as long as the community finds it of value.
7. The community, over 53 years, has invested nearly £200,000 (in 2023 money equivalent value) in Dorney Village Hall.

Dorney Village Hall	1970 Build of Village Hall & Access			2013/14 Refurb of Village Hall			Totals	Totals
	1970	1970 £/ 2023 Value	2023 Money Equivalent	2013/14	2013/4 £/ 2023 Value	2023 Money Equivalent	2023 Money Equivalent	%age
Investors								
Capital Expenditure only	£			£				
Community (Dorney residents)	£6,832	£13.05	£89,158	£82,400	£1.33	£109,592	£198,750	69%
Government	£5,007	£13.05	£65,341	£0	£1.33	£0	£65,341	23%
District Council	£1,000	£13.05	£13,050	£2,620	£1.33	£3,485	£16,535	6%
Others (External Donors etc)	£0	£13.05	£0	£5,000	£1.33	£6,650	£6,650	2%
Totals	£12,839	£13.05	£167,549	£90,020	£1.33	£119,727	£287,276	100%

2023 Money Equivalent Values: <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy/inflation/inflation-calculator>

8. The time to make such a change is when the charity is financially strong – not like in 2013 when it was financially challenged, and the rain was pouring through the roof.

Brief History of the Charity

DVH was originally set up as a charity in 1930 when the first Village Hall was established in Village Road. The primary reason for this, it appears, was because a large number of village clubs and associations that existed at that time wanted a suitable hall in which to meet and enjoy related leisure activities - and they wanted direct control over its use.

In 1970 these sixteen organisations were listed in the Governing Document as Representative Members. The Committee of Management was set up of 32(!) members – 16 Representative members (Clubs & Societies), 12 elected members and 4 Co-optative Members. All members were trustees.

Today there are only two clubs/societies that regularly use the Village Hall – the Dorney Badminton Club and the Dorney Horticultural Society. The Parish Council nominates a trustee but, as their meetings clash with the Badminton Club, they use Dorney School for their meetings!

Private Events and Financials

Private Events show usage between Dorney Residents and Non-Dorney Residents. It can be seen that Non-Dorney Residents are currently the primary source of Ad Hoc income (90%).

DVH Private Events and Financials 01 Apr 2018-31 Mar 2022										
Yr starts 01APR	2018	%	2019	%	2020	%	2021	%	2022	%
					Pandemic		Pandemic			
Private Ad Hoc Events	97	100%	139	100%	4	100%	45	100%	135	100%
Dorney Residents	19	20%	28	20%	2	50%	10	22%	14	10%
Non-Dorney Residents	78	80%	111	80%	2	50%	35	78%	121	90%
Financials										
Total Income	£24,850		£27,170		£29,251		£16,114		£20,560	
Total Expenditure	£17,735		£15,082		£25,157		£11,350		£13,640	
NET SURPLUS/(LOSS)	£7,115		£12,088		£4,094		£4,765		£6,920	
Year End Reserves	£30,663		£43,026		£47,120		£54,984		£61,904	

Position in Neighbouring Buckinghamshire Parishes regarding ownership/management of Village Hall:

Taplow:

Taplow Parish Council owns and manages Taplow Village Hall

Burnham:

Burnham Parish Council owns and manages Burnham Park Hall.

Current Lease of DVH is with Bucks Council, at a peppercorn rent and terminates after 20 years on 28 February 2030. This is but one of the quagmire of historical legal and other issues relating to Trumper's Field (Attached)

Conclusions:

1. Hall was closed and completely refurbished/repared in 2014. Since 2018 it has made a surplus of an average of £8,500 p.a. (excluding Pandemic impacted years)
2. It is currently in a strong financial position with reserves of c. £62,000 and should continue to deliver an annual surplus of c. £7,000+ p.a., assuming no further major shocks.
3. DPC are currently paying PWLB loan (£60k) for 2013/14 DVH refurbishment at approx. £4,250 p.a. for another 10 years, from the precept.
4. A detailed document from the Charity Commission about village halls may be found on this link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284719/rs9text.pdf

Suggested Future Management:

- DPC, as Sole Trustee, would take over from the five current trustees:
 - Anna Palmer representing DPC
 - Pam Turvey representing Dorney Badminton Club
 - Ron Alsworth representing Dorney Horticultural Society
 - Bill Dax Executive Committee Member
 - Euan MacLennan Executive Committee Member
- Chair of DPC becomes Chair of DVH Charity
- Executive Committee could remain as is:
 - Ruth Senior Village Hall Manager and Parish Clerk
 - Euan MacLennan Executive Committee Member and Parish Councillor
 - Bill Dax Executive Committee Member
 - Meets Quarterly?
 - Chaired by a Parish Councillor?
- Annual Charity General Meeting could take place before or after Annual Parish Meeting.
- Day-to-day management would continue to be the responsibility of the Village Hall Manager and the Executive Committee. No change there.

Next Steps:

1. DPC to consider the request from the Trustees of Dorney Village Hall and advise the Trustees of their decision, or any further questions that they may have.
 - a. Parish Councillors Euan MacLennan and Anna Palmer are also DVH Trustees.

The Trustees of Dorney Village Hall Charity

Date: 2 November 2023

Attached:

Current DVH Governance Document – Revised 12 March 2020

Current Quagmire of Ownership, Leases, Licences, Maintenance, Insurance, Safety and Security Issues related to Trumper's Field.