BUCKLESHAM VILLAGE HALL

HELD IN TRUST BY BUCKLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 13th November 2026

To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hall, the Committee organised a whole range of different events throughout the year, culminating in the Beetle Drive on 23rd October. The night was a big success and was very well attended by residents aged from 3 to 83 – and everyone had a brilliant time.

The Village Hall Open Day on 12th September was another success and very well attended. All Hall User Groups were in attendance and most managed to gain new members on the day, which was brilliant.

With the Hall forecast to make another financial loss this year, the Committee reluctantly decided that it was necessary to increase the Hire Fee. The cost of a full tank of oil has increased from £785 to £1,100 since March, and the insurance, water and electricity costs have all increased. Ruth had already reduced her paid hours for Hall administration from 28 per month to 15 per month, but this would not have covered the full shortfall. The Committee unanimously agreed to increase the Hire Fee for all village hobby groups by £5 a week, to outside groups by £10, and to increase one-off bookings by £10 a session.

There had been a very unfortunate incident with a Saturday night booking when the Hall had been left in a terrible state. The Hirer had broken the terms of the Hire Agreement in numerous ways, including having an 8ft barbeque in the car park, continuing the party until well after the agreed finish time, and by leaving the Hall in a very unclean condition. To make matters worse, they had damaged the walls. It was then necessary for Terry to replaster and repaint. As a result, the Committee agreed to start charging a refundable damages deposit of £300 for any similar bookings in the future.

Finally, the Committee were extremely sad to hear of the death of Committee member Heather Owen. Heather had served on the Committee for many years, as Secretary and Bookings Clerk for much of that time, and was always heavily involved in helping to organise events. Heather was never one for a title and refused to wear a name badge at the Village Hall Conference, stating that she was no more important than anyone else in attendance. A name badge was made nonetheless, which Heather duly wore with pride, as it said 'Heather Owen, Chief Troublemaker'. Heather will be very much missed by all her friends on the Committee.

Cllr Lynda Seagroatt