

HURSLEY PARISH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Annual General Meeting

20 May 2026

Chairman's Report

In my capacity as Chair of the Committee, I have pleasure to present herewith, my report for the current year. It is my 14th year in the role and am pleased with the year that has passed. Our only disappointment continues to be the reduced private hires – both clubs and parties – despite encouragement to the local community. We remind readers and potential users that the hall is “open for business” , and would be delighted to host you!!

Before I speak about operational matters, I start as customary with sincere thanks to all members of my committee for their continued support and contribution during the year. Our numbers have been consistent and stable (5 heads) and am thankful for their time, commitment and effort that they all invest. This includes a special mention to Alex Bell who assumed active ownership of various maintenance matters. We really appreciate his hard work. Toby Hunter-Guest continues to be our Parish Council representative and provides an important link between the management committee and the Parish Council. I am delighted to have seen our numbers maintained, but, as always, should there be further members of the parish who are interested in supporting us, please do let us know. It is important that we have new thoughts and ideas, so am always keen to hear from willing volunteers!

Sincere thanks are offered to Cheryl Steele, our Hall Manager, without whom, the Hall would cease to function. Cheryl manages the Hall on a day-to-day basis, serving as the first point of contact for users, whilst being very attentive, flexible and hardworking, keeping users aware of rules and availability. She works tirelessly for the Hall, the Committee and its users, for which I, and wider Committee, are extremely grateful. Thank you sincerely, Cheryl!!

Operationally, (general) activities at the Hall continue to be reduced. We always communicate that the Hall is “open for business” but this has not translated into increased hires. We acknowledge that our virtual world benefits from improved technology and has changed the way users behave, but will continue to look at ways to make the space more visible and encourage more use of the Hall – a facility that is available in evenings (after 6pm) and weekends - and suitable for classes/events/functions which provides benefit for local inhabitants by bringing people together.

Whilst the reduced use of the Hall is noted, we continue to have a good relationship with the Hursley Childcare Hub. The Hub has gone from strength to strength over the years and is a permanent fixture in the village. The Committee has been delighted to see how the Childcare Hub has grown which has translated into more of the Hall's footprint being required and additional revenue. We both recognise the significant mutual benefits of working together and are grateful for the excellent relationship that has been fostered with Vanessa and her team. Thank you!

Our ability to support the Childcare Hub and Community Groups more generally demonstrates our commitment to the inhabitants of Hursley (and wider community) without distinction of political, religious or other opinions and our objective of improving the condition of life thereof.

The management committee have always maintained the need for a healthy cash balance – this enables us to manage any adversity and has allowed us to navigate through a period of time where utility costs have continued to increase and hires reduced. The Committee have been very diligent in

managing our cash - for both the short and longer term – but have demonstrated over time that we will spend where needed.

With this in mind, the Committee note that we will attend to (identified) initiatives during the year ahead, whilst ensuring that we have sufficient cash set aside for both known and unknown future costs/events. It is incredibly important that the Committee is able to ensure that the Parish Hall continues to be available, and a pleasant and welcoming space for both private and community functions, and are committed to the important task of maintaining an important fixture of our wonderful village. We do welcome input, suggestions and ideas from members of the Parish to improve its offering, so sincerely hope you will engage with all and any of our Committee members, and look forward to hearing from you.

One important initiative that has progressed in year – and whilst not related to day to day operation - is the transition of the Charity into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Following much discussion between the Hall Committee, and Parish Council, Paris Smith (law firm) are in the process of creating this new charitable body – a process that will resolve a current issue regarding personal liability and the legacy (personal) trustees. I am hopeful that this will be concluded by the Summer.

Best Wishes.

William Cameron
20 May 2026

Chair
Hursley Parish Hall Management Committee