

WELNEY PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

TREASURER'S REPORT

22nd January 2003

BANK

New Mandate

Barclays Bank has now accepted the new mandate and the two new signatories. Copies of my correspondence and the Bank's forms are in my file.

Bank Balances. Current a/c £3,454.42, Deposit Accounts, £1,351.30 and £9,006.29, a total of £13,812.01.

INCOME

Lots of good news to report.

Problems with previous Treasurer. I contacted Martin Kyne-Lilley recently concerning three items in particular. Firstly, the amount he repaid the Committee in October was some £312 less than it should have been based on the accounts he submitted on resignation. Secondly, the cheque for £200 from the Parish Council in May for the Jubilee celebrations had not been banked, was out of date, and the Parish Council had given no indication they would re-issue it. Further sundry items amounted to £15. I am pleased to say that Martin has since paid this in full, rounding the amount up to £530

Donation 1 Just after the last meeting we received a cheque for £880 from Elgood's Brewery. This followed negotiations with Elgood's by our Chairman, Richard Green, and was to cover the cost of the Borough Council fee for handling the planning application for the proposed new Hall. Later, the Parish Council consented to allow the application to be made in their name, rather than the Committee's, so halving the charge. This means we have £440 to go towards the Architect's fees.

Hall Bookings income for November was £105, and December £100. We also received £20 in cash from the Toddlers group to replace a £20 cheque given in December 2001, but which had never been banked.

Bingo. The contribution received in November from Amy Markham was £25.65 for August, £24.09 for September, and £3.87 for October. After deducting £30 for the purchase of books, there is a net contribution to Hall funds of £23.61

Christmas Bazaar. The Committee decided not to run the event this year, and the School organised a Fayre instead. Two stalls were however run by PHC members and the proceeds we received were £35.05 from the teas provided by Miss Amy Markham and £54.70 from the stall run by Elizabeth Deckker and Margaret Levesley

Surgery. Going through the accounts I could not find any payments from the Upwell Health Centre for provision of surgery facilities in the Hall for the last three years. I spoke to the Practice Manager and he confirmed my findings. I subsequently wrote to him and as a result received a cheque for £300 to cover the years 2000, 2001 and 2002

Grants. I wrote to the Parish Council a couple of weeks ago asking if they would kindly consider making their usual annual grant. I also mentioned that MKL had made good the loss of the Jubilee grant from his own funds. At Dennis Booth's prompting, the Council agreed not only to the annual grant, but also to re-issuing the Jubilee cheque. We subsequently received a total of £400

Donation 2. I e-mailed MKL to let him know that the Council had now re-issued the Jubilee grant cheque, and he was therefore now in credit with us. His reply was "please keep the money". If no more shortages are found during the final stages of my review of the last four years accounts, this will be treated as a donation.

Donation 3. I spoke to Karen Flemming last week concerning the report in the April/May 2002 "Welney News" from Phillipa Mitchell of the Millenium Art Project. The report stated that the sale of the 2002 calendar had raised £455 for the new Village Hall. Karen has confirmed today that they haven't paid us yet, and thought the amount was a gross figure. She will contact Phillipa to find out the net amount is and then arrange payment.

Now, some not-so-good news.

Rent. The lease started in 1986 at an annual rent of £100. Provision was made for increases every five years in line with the Retail Price Increase. The increase was applied in 1991, when the rent became £135, but not in 1996 or 2001. We therefore owe back rent of £191 in total. Ben Cave of the EA has written to propose spreading this over the next three years. Personally, I would prefer to pay it all now so that I can apportion the back charges to the years I am reviewing.

Electricity. Charges for several years have been based on estimates. These have resulted in undercharges of nearly £200. I have advised the supplier (TXU) and have now received a corrected invoice. As with the rent, the charges need to be apportioned to previous years. The next

Bills for payment.

- (1) Re-imbusement to Richard Green of the £440 for the Borough Council fee for the planning application for the proposed new Hall. Richard paid this with a personal cheque.
- (2) I would like to propose that we re-join the Norfolk Association of Village Halls. We were members for many years, but we did not renew our subscription last January. The cost is £10.
- (3) The architect's fee. The invoice Richard received at the beginning of December was for £4,230. At the time of writing this report (6pm Wed 22nd Jan) I have no news on any progress Richard has made on reducing the charge.

Now, some items for a future meeting

I would like to propose a review of Hall charges.

(1) I cannot find in any of the papers handed to me from MKL any details of our Tariff for Hall lettings. I have established though that in the mid eighties, the charge for private parties was £25, and the normal fee £5, the same as we are charging now. Our costs of course have risen considerably, and I would like this to be an item for discussion at our next meeting.

(2) I have spoken to Jill Bliss, the Treasurer of Christchurch Village Hall, regarding surgery facilities and charges. They provide exactly the same as us, two surgeries a week held in the kitchen, with waiting in the Hall, both having to be heated when necessary. They are already charging more than we do, and are just about to increase it. Jill has promised to let me know the new rate as soon as it is fixed.

(3) I have no records as to what rate we set the meters too, but I am now recording the slot-meter readings when they are emptied to establish the rate.