

Bredhurst Village Hall – Report 2024/2025

It has been a very difficult year for Bredhurst Village Hall Charity.

Throughout the year Trustees were faced with many challenges including a Police investigation, a lease renewal which has been outstanding for several years and updating the charity's original constitution which dates back to the 1960s. Trustees are still in the process of taking legal advice regarding these very complex issues.

In December 2024 the Treasurer resigned without notice and without a handover or bank reconciliation. A new Treasurer was appointed, and the Chair then gave her and another Trustee full access to two bank accounts and partial access to another.

It soon became apparent that there were financial irregularities which were reported to the Police in January. Trustees met and passed a vote of no confidence in the then Chair and a new Chair was elected. The ex-Chair was arrested by the Police on 14th March. Trustees are in contact with the Police who have confirmed that their concerns were justified, and investigations are ongoing.

The new Treasurer is in the process of trying to prepare accounts for 24/25 which is difficult with a lot of the information required missing and still only partial access to one of the bank accounts. Only the ex-Chair has full access to this account.

The remaining Trustees cancelled several unnecessary standing orders and direct debits.

Several deep cleans of the hall have been carried out and many hirers have commented on how much cleaner it is now. The garden is also now being maintained. Several plumbing and electrical repairs have been carried out along with the re-decoration of the rear lobby and a partial re-decoration of the ladies WC.

Electric hand driers have been installed in all WCs doing away with the need for expensive paper towels and the rubbish they generated. The Biffa waste collection which was costing approximately £270pm was cancelled. Hirers are now required to remove all rubbish at the end of their hire.

The internal CCTV cameras have been removed. All locks have been changed and regular hirers issued with new fobs.

Hirers numbers continue to be high and new regular hirers include Tiny Totts and Little City – both filling weekly slots which had been vacant for some time.