

## Village Hall in crisis 2024



It is no exaggeration to say that as 2024 gets under way the Village Hall is facing the biggest crisis it has faced since 1977. The current committee has been understaffed for at least ten years, in 1999 we had ten or twelve committee members including trustees. In the last two years most of the work

Has been carried out by just two people, both of whom wish to step down in 2024. We have now reached the point where if we cannot recruit new trustees and committee members then there will be no alternative but to close the hall – probably at the end of July when most of the hirers finish for their summer holidays. It is ironic that we should be in this position when the Village Hall is in really good shape from a

buildings maintenance point of view, from the bookings point of view, from the financial point of view. But all of this counts for nothing if we cannot recruit people on to our committee willing to take on roles to take the hall forward beyond 2024.

We need six Trustees and six committee members. The Trustees will cover the main roles on the Committee – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Minutes Secretary, Building Maintenance Manager.

We need at least two people with a practical background in building maintenance to manage

- a) the annual servicing of gas boilers, fire alarm system, fire extinguishers; the monthly checking of the fire alarm call points & emergency lighting, pat testing.
- b) overseeing any work that needs doing to the fabric of the buildings – identifying problems, obtaining quotes for the work and overseeing the completion of the work. This could be a small sub committee of three or four people to share the work between them;
- c) a practical person who can carry out minor repairs as they occur – door locks on kitchen cupboards; toilets that refuse to flush; taps that need washers; blinds that do not open or close; clearing out the metal grids at the front of the Village Hall of all the composted leaves; Sweeping the carpark during the autumn October-January of acorns and leaves to ensure there are no trip hazards during the darker winter evenings.
- d) For the technically minded we need someone to monitor the CCTV; deal with hiccups on the Sound System which incorporates the Loop System in the Village Hall;

It would be useful to have people on the committee with experience (or willing to take on) the Following subjects:

Safeguarding, Diversity, Data Protection, Risk Assessment Reviews.

It would also be useful to have someone with experience of

Grant applications

Insurances

Basic Legal advice

For further information or a general discussion please contact Jackie Tomnie on 01676 533315

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