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**Chair’s report for year ending 15 May 2025**

INTRODUCTION

This report summarises the activities carried out by the Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall Management Committee for the 12 months since 15 May 2024 (date of the last AGM) and the following AGM on 15 May 2025.

MEMBERSHIP

At the 2024 AGM the committee had eight members (the statutory limit) with roles agreed at the subsequent regular meeting as follows:

* Jimmy Rae - Chairman
* Richard Edwards – Deputy Chairman. Legal/Facilities/Compliance.
* Stuart Naylor – Treasurer & Booking Clerk
* Sarah-Lou Rae – Website/Facebook
* Jo Parsons – Secretary & Community Liaison
* Mandy Salmon, Francis Ellis & Jacquie North – Event Support/Fundraisers

In January 2025 Francis Ellis resigned from the committee resulting in a vacancy that has yet to be filled. We are actively seeking a representative from Beeston to fill this gap as we currently have no representation from Beeston.

Jimmy Rae temporarily stepped down as chair to free up time for an external commitment and Richard Edwards (Deputy Chair) kindly took over as temporary chair until March 2025.

Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall is a Registered Charity (no. 1099523) and the Trustees registered with the Charity Commission are Jimmy Rae, Stuart Naylor and Daphne Weedall.

HALL FINANCES AND ACTIVITIES

The hall has been well used throughout the year with regular weekly bookings for fitness and craft sessions, fundraising events organised by the committee and private bookings including family parties, corporate awaydays, polling days and the annual Cheshire Ultramarathon.

All of the above have helped to generate income for the hall and cementing its role as an important and unique asset for the local community.

Two of the biggest events of the year were the D-Day Commemoration in June 2025 and the unveiling of the new buzzard statue in the centre of the village in July by the Hon Edward Tollemache, both of which were celebrated by an afternoon tea party, attended by almost everyone in the village!

Other events organised by the committee include monthly ‘Pitstop Café’s’ as well as social evenings, quiz nights and a Bingo night. Along with some successful grant applications, these have all contributed to the annual income of over £12,000, which is covered in detail in a separate Financial Report from the hall’s Treasurer, Stuart Naylor.

We would like to express our thanks to the many local businesses who have supported our fundraising events throughout the year with raffle prizes and donations, including Peckforton Hall Farm and The Bickerton Poacher who supply our monthly Pit Stop cafes with free milk and bacon.

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

These events are promoted to the local community via monthly updates in My Village News, posters and flyers around Peckforton and Beeston, the PBVH website and Facebook page and the Peckfortonians WhatsApp group.

We still have challenges around engagement with Beeston residents as this community has fewer channels of communication, particularly of a digital nature, compared to Peckforton. Addressing this will continue to be one of our goals in the year ahead, along with recruiting a Beeston resident to the management committee.

IMPROVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR 2024-25

Keeping the hall in good condition is one of the management committee’s key responsibilities and this year we have seen considerable investment in a wide range of improvements, including:

* Installation of batteries for the solar panels
* Repainting the hall exterior
* Repairs to the roof and guttering
* Installation of Wi-fi
* Purchase of a card reader and mobile phone to enable us to take card payments
* Installation of new blinds on the windows
* Installation of a new projector screen
* Improvements to internal and external electrics including a new outdoor spotlight on the steps to the hall
* Removal of some overgrown trees on the embankment
* New guidance and Ts&Cs for hall hirers on the website
* New signage on the hall itself
* Provision of new baby changing mat, new wine glasses, a visitors book, new battery for the defibrillator and key safes for the hall and office
* Installation in partnership with the Parish Meeting of perimeter fencing around the hall car park.

As covered above, the cost of these improvements was met through ongoing revenue and some successful grant applications, with the hall ending the year with a deficit of £1,970 (taking into account an accrual of £2,600 from the previous year) and £10,300 held in reserves.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In November 2024 the hall agreed a renegotiated 15 year lease with the Peckforton Estate via its new agents Knight Frank, with the additional safeguard of the lease remaining within the Landlord and Tenant Act which provides greater security of tenure for the future.

The committee will continue to fulfil its obligations to maintain the hall as a safe, well used, well maintained and financially viable facility for the local community. Our plans for 2025-26 include further improvements to the hall including relaying the external patio, repainting the kitchen and toilets and improved exterior signage. We are also keen to raise awareness and usage of the hall amongst residents of Beeston.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone on the village hall committee for the hard work, enthusiasm and support this year and I am confident the hall will continue to go from strength to strength in the year ahead.

**Jimmy Rae
Chair, Peckforton and Beeston Village Hall**

**May 2025**