

Sutton Poyntz Mission Hall Management Trust
Registered as a Charity Number 1079729
Report and Accounts
for the Year ended 31st March 2024

Sutton Poyntz Mission Hall Management Trust

Report for the Year ended 31st March 2024

Sutton Poyntz Mission Hall Management Trust, 106A Sutton Road, Sutton Poyntz, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6LW is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commissioners Number 1079729.

The Charity is administered by a trustee management committee currently comprising:

Chair/Treasurer: Mr Bill Egerton
Secretary: Mrs Sue Cottam
Other members: Mrs Maureen Cribb, Mrs Shirley Davies, Ms Sue Davis,
Mrs Anthea Heathershaw, Mrs Maureen Morris, Mrs Sue Wintle

Objects

The object of the Charity is to hold the Leasehold of the Mission Hall together with such other property as may be acquired by the trustees, for the purpose of a Village Hall for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Preston cum Sutton Poyntz in the County of Dorset without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for meetings, lectures, classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

Activities

Committee: During the year, Sheena Dearness has retired as a Committee member and we have also lost Yvonne Emery (hugely missed by the whole village) - we thank them for the energy and enthusiasm they both brought to their roles. Yvonne had already stepped down as Secretary, but that job was taken up most excellently by Sue Cottam. We have a couple of vacancies for new Committee members.

Lease: Following the very useful Open Meetings in December 2022 and January 2023, which confirmed the village's enthusiasm for the Mission Hall, we have been in discussions with St Andrew's Parochial Church Council about an extension to the existing Lease, and have now jointly written a rather technical letter to Salisbury Diocese, formally asking for the Lease to be extended. We are awaiting a reply, but the fact that the local PCC are strongly supporting an extension makes it reasonably certain that we will get it. The original 30-year Lease ends in 2029, but we have felt confident enough to ask for a 40-year extension. As the Lease is a legal document, both we and the Church will need to employ Solicitors to be sure the document does what is wanted.

Change to Mission Hall Trust Constitution: As part of the process of extending the Lease, we have re-examined the Trust Constitution, which is contained as a First Schedule to the Lease. We are proposing some changes, which we feel will improve the way the Trust Committee is chosen and does its work. We have advised the Charity Commission and Salisbury Diocese of the proposed changes, but it is the AGM that has the power to make the changes. A document is attached listing the proposed changes for debate.

Building Survey: In preparation for a Lease extension, we commissioned a Building Survey.

This showed a building that is basically in a good state, for which congratulations and thanks to the Trustees who have cared for the building over the last 25 years. The survey did show a number of things that need attention, and gave us a very helpful suggested schedule of works for the next few years.

Building works: Partly as a result of the Survey, we wrote a specification and sought tenders for a set of building works, some (such as repair work to the floor) being repairs arising from the Survey, and others (such as refurbishment of the WC behind the stage, and thermal lagging of the hall's roof space) being improvements. We expect to have to spend around £30,000 on this work. We also need to get the hall decorated this year, which is not included in that £30,000. In addition we are getting ideas and costs for new double-glazed windows and for new, more efficient, heating. At March 2024 the Hall's bank account had a very healthy balance of over £41,000, but we will find that is not enough for all the improvements we would like to implement.

Fund raising and grants: We have run a number of fund-raising events during the year, and are hugely grateful for the people that have worked so hard to make these the enjoyable success they have been (with a special thanks to Colin and Rita for their catering work for several of these events). These events have given us a profit of about £2,200 in the last year.

We were also very fortunate (thanks to lots of hard work by Sue Cottam) to receive a £5,000 grant from the Darlington Charitable Trust, who support a variety of works, particularly for elderly and excluded people and old buildings, and mainly but not exclusively in Devon. We continue to seek other grant sources.

Policies: In an age dedicated to more and more demand for endless paperwork, we need to make sure our Trust's policies and documents are as close to "best practice" as we can reasonably achieve. So, kick-started by some very hard work by Sheena Dearness, we have been looking at our Policies and working practices, and aim to have a revised set by about the end of 2024. Of particular importance are Health & Safety and Safeguarding, but we also need to look at a group of "Corporate Behaviour" documents including topics such as Equal Opportunities, Conflict of Interest and Financial Management.

Volunteers and helpers: Thank you to all the volunteers who clean the Mission Hall each week. I would also like to thank members of the Village for their help and advice with various maintenance jobs when needed. We are very fortunate to have so many people who are prepared to give their time so freely.

I want to thank all the Members of the Committee for their essential contribution to the running of the Hall this year. The Hall is a valuable asset to the village, and we on the Committee aim to continue to maintain and support it. We look forward to another successful year and your continued help and support.

Financial Report

Summary: We attach a pack of Finance Reports which have very kindly been audited by John Allen: a Balance Sheet, an Income and Expenditure Report, and a Summary of Income and Expenditure showing the breakdown between the three Subfunds.

Starting with the Income & Expenditure Report, you will see that income is well up on the previous year. Hall hire income increased, but fund-raising events and the grant we received made this a very successful year. Expenditure has also increased, partly because of the Building Survey we commissioned, but mainly because of movements in electricity prices (which you are all well aware of!). As a result of all this, our bank balance has gone up by about £7,800.

Looking at the Subfund analysis sheet, you will see that our Rental Fund has had a loss of nearly £1000. This was exactly as we planned a year ago when we set the hall rental rate below what was needed to break even. The Building Fund and Improvements Fund have both had significant increases, and the total bank balance stands at £41,585.

In the Balance Sheet, acting at John Allen's advice, we have increased the rate at which our Fixed Assets and Fixtures are depreciated, so that they will go down to zero at the end of the current Lease period.

Budget: We also attach a Budget for 2024/5. With electricity prices reducing, we expect the Rental Fund to make a small profit (in part making up the loss in 2023/4), so we are able to maintain the current rental rate for the Hall. With a following wind, we hope to be able to carry out significant works on the Hall this year, which will bring the Building Fund and Improvements Fund balances down to below £4,000 each. You will see from the Budget that we have had the exceptionally good fortune to receive another £5,000 grant.

Attachments:

- Proposed changes to Constitution
- Balance Sheet, year ending 31/3/2024
- Income & Expenditure Report, year ending 31/3/2024
- Subfund Analysis, year ending 31/3/2024
- Draft Budget, April 2024 to March 2025

Signed: W Egerton (Chair)

Date



For and on behalf of the Management Committee