

Broadwas & Cotheridge – Annual Parish Meeting- May 2021

Broadwas Village Hall Management Committee.

The last year has been the most momentous in the history of Broadwas Village Hall. Not only by virtue of the effects of Covid 19 lockdowns but also the extension project that has fairly much taken over Management Committee business and occupied a large part of my personal time and that of the treasurer, Sharon Downes.

During 2019 when planning the project, which we expected to start around Easter 2020, we had envisaged that the hall could remain open for business during the early part of construction work as this would take place outside. It is often said in military circles that a plan for action usually holds good until the first contact with the enemy.

The last planned activity that I undertook was to attend, with Sharon, a meeting of Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council on the 16th March 2020 to explain our project to them with the hope that they might contribute to our funding. Four days later, as we all remember, came lockdown. All hiring of the hall was cancelled and our builder's timetable was suspended. Although Knightwick and Doddenham did make a very valuable contribution we had no idea when we would be able to start work. The delay unfortunately provoked an attack of cold feet on the part of our own Parish Council which caused me a great deal of anguish but eventually we did get a digger in the ground at the beginning of November 2020.

Since then the work has proceeded fairly much without a hitch losing only a few days for weather. With hindsight though closure due to Covid has played into our hands because it would not have been possible to keep the hall open during the building work. Apart from some topping and tailing the job is now complete and has come in within budget. Inevitably though the brand new appearance of the extended part highlights the need for redecoration and improvement of the existing parts. People who go to the hall on election day the 6th May will I am sure be surprised at the transformation.

By agreement with Timesavers we suspended the cleaning contract at the beginning of lockdown but have retained the contact point and booking diary with them. The gardening contract is not active during the Winter so outgoings have been modest. This has been compensated for by a grant from Government to all small businesses and community organisations to cover loss of income during lockdown.

Let us hope that from June we will be in a position to restart 'normal' activities and begin to make full use of the improved facilities at Broadwas Village Hall.

Geoffrey Winkworth MBE - Chairman.
Sharon Downes – Secretary / Treasurer