

Notes for LAVCH Zoom Meeting 20th June 22

These are very rough bullet points!

Present (plus links to hall websites)

Peter and Barbara Higham	Whittle-le-Woods Community Hall	Hall link
Bernard Kershaw	New Longton Village Hall	Hall link
Simon Kirkman	Catterall Village Hall	Hall link
Peter Pemberton	Goosnargh Village Hall	Hall link
Sian Middlebrough	Grimsargh Village Hall	Hall link
Eileen Murray	Grimsargh Village Hall	Hall link

A number sent apologies, having wished to be able to attend, but otherwise engaged

Charging Structures (merging with a bit of energy discussions...)

1. Simon started discussions here, stating he'd been Chair since Feb 21 – with a whole new committee and they had to formulate a charging policy from scratch. This had evolved into the document he shared on screen:
<https://catterallvillagehall.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CVH-Charging-policy-May-2021v1-3.docx>
All thought these were pretty low charges, but if they can “make do” with that level of income, then it works for Catterall. The hall is very well used. It was noted that Catterall is smaller than some halls and it is difficult to make direct comparisons – as sizes and facilities vary so much. It was also noted that village halls are not realistically in competition with each other as many groups won't travel outside their area – making comparisons between halls in different locations perhaps of little use/meaning.
2. Peter H said they charge a flat £16 per hour irrespective of what the user is. One exception to this is a wedding – that is charged at £500 (as a starting point) – due to large amount of committee time taken up with the arrangements
3. Goosnargh now charge £20 per hour – was £15
4. All Grimsargh's charges can be found here: <https://grimsarghvillagehall.co.uk/facilities-and-hiring/>
5. Query raised as to whether anyone was increasing charges specifically due to increased energy prices. Peter said above increase was pre-empting what was coming. Others said “not yet”....
6. Most halls present have their charges available via their website.
7. Energy brokers were mentioned – and some had experienced difficulties with theirs. Eileen reported having a decent enough experience with “Make it Cheaper”. Through happy coincidence, had agreed a new 4 year contract last year for electricity (which starts 30th June 22) for 20p a unit (from 15p).
8. Eileen would love to hear from halls with bars as to what they charge (has heard from Grindleton). Grimsargh need to increase prices, but not sure to what....

Heating Systems and Energy “Stuff”

9. There are some concerns among members looking to future replacements for existing/old “traditional” boilers – where the new technologies don’t seem to suit the usage patterns (sporadic use, etc), availability of renewable energy is limited, etc. The direction of travel for such is clearly one direction – away from the use of fossil fuels.
10. View expressed that where heating systems are going is “an unknown country”. Government legislation often is ahead of the technology to match it. Other view is that when dramatic changes are being made, best approach can be to sit tight and watch what happens.
11. Other halls may independently wish to adopt “greener” low-carbon means for heating and lighting buildings. Many are or have already adopted such or are making moves to do so.
12. Community Futures and Eileen are trying to find someone or some person/organisation to come and talk to us.
13. One of the Community Futures Contacts was Stacey Bradey from Green Doctor – a project sponsored by Ground Work. They provide advice and assistance to residents with domestic concerns over rising heating costs. It sounds like a highly laudable project – which hall committees might want to publicise the details of, or pass on to their Parish Councils. <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/projects/green-doctor/> Ruth from Community Futures emailed out details of events being hosted by them last week. Stacey mentioned Ashton Hayes – which is a village aiming to be England’s first “Carbon Neutral village: [Ashton Hayes Going Carbon Neutral - Home](#). Eileen has contacted their chair and is following some leads he provided.
14. Simon mentioned Kate Gilmartin – who is someone else Community Futures have approached but she/they didn’t feel our needs lay within the remit of her current project with LCC. Simon reckons she is still worth talking to, so Eileen will ask for more details.
15. Eileen is punting out various enquiries, including following some leads from the Chair of the Ashton Hayes project – Energy Saving Trust, Centre for Alternative Technologies, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Catapult, but none of us have yet found the ideal candidate.
16. Churches have similar issues and Church of England have a lot on their website about such matters. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating#na>. There is a great deal of information and guidance on/via that webpage and some excellent “Case Studies” to look at too – worth spending some time reading.
17. Thought is to gather our pooled knowledge and experience. E.g. ask those who have already adopted new tech – e.g. Bleasdale with their pellet-fuelled boiler and Grindleton with their ground-source heat pump, halls that have solar PV to share their experience and share at Members meetings? That, plus gathering lists of sources of useful information may be the best we can do, while continuing to find external “expert” assistance.
ALL TO PLEASE ASK AROUND IN THEIR COMMUNITIES
18. Peter suggested we ask Michael Harrison of Lea Hough Associates, who deals with a lot of school heating contracts. Good idea!
19. Simon is still trying to get payments for their solar PV, as wasn’t registered for FiT when installed. Problem is the most recent FiT terms required installation of smart meters – and difficulties with their supplier not fitting to 3 phase applications. Post meeting note – Grimsargh have had 3-phase smart meters fitted – currently with British Gas Lite for elec.

Other/General

20. Simon has great quote for getting their car park surface re-done. 60 car/1300sqm – somewhere under £20k. <https://fletcherslandscapes.co.uk/>

Post Meeting Notes

21. If anyone else has good contractor or other details to share – please forward – or share on the Facebook Discussion Forum.
22. Reminder re the above: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LAVCHDiscussionForum>. It is a private group – so ask to become a member – answer the question about what hall you're affiliated with and get stuck in asking questions and sharing. 😊