

Village Hall

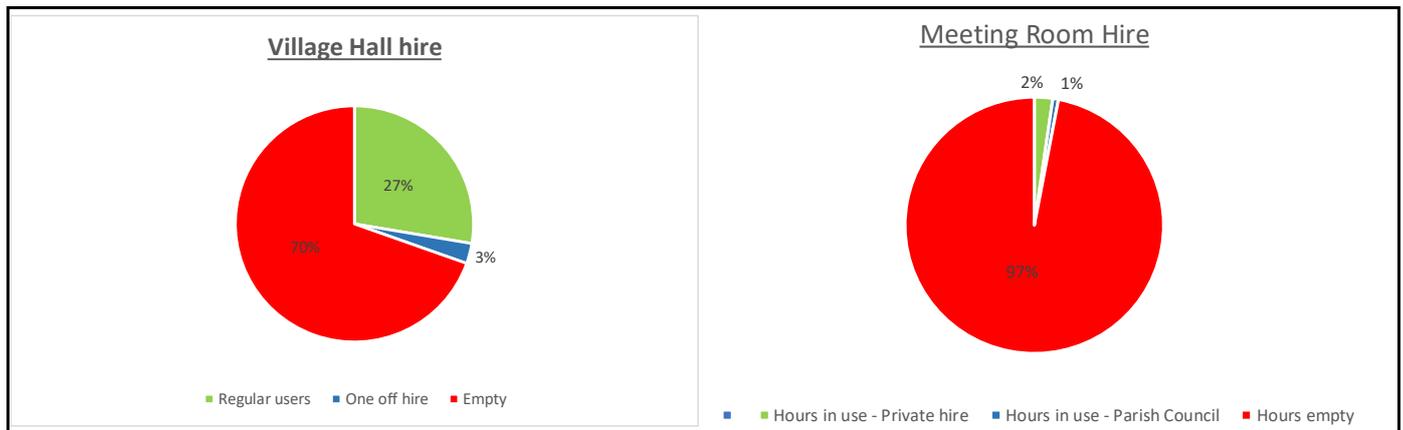
Background

The village hall is not only home to the Parish Council, it serves as a popular venue for regular local social and recreational groups. It is also hired out for youngster’s parties because there is an abundance of space for play and more recently hires have come from educational and well-being groups. It also serves as the parish’s polling station. There is also a separate meeting room which is seldom hired out and is used predominantly and increasingly by the Parish Council. The income from the village hall hire contributes toward the Parish Council’s budget and helps to stem increases to the precept. In the first quarter of this financial year, it generated £7,000 of income.

Utilisation

As the charts below demonstrate the hall is not anywhere close to capacity and it is known that meeting room hire is more an exception. The source of the data includes hires from 1st August 2021 to 1st August 2022 and is based on the following assumptions:

- Available 7 days per week
- Available from 9am – 9pm
- Excludes bank holidays



The Future

The prospect of a larger community hub that will provide additional space for the Parish Council and accommodate a library, a café and multiple rooms for hire has been discussed for several years without too much consideration as to the future of the village hall. Now that planning permission has been granted for the community hub thought needs to turn to the future of this community asset.

Options

The Parish Council could look to:

- Sell the village hall to potentially contribute toward the refurbishment of the community hub

- Lease out the village hall to potentially off-set the running costs at the community hub
- Retain the village hall for its current hirers as the hall space is not replicated at the community hub
- Retain the village hall for potential re-development and improvement should the current community hub plans not progress

Recommendation

There is no requirement at this early stage for the committee to make a recommendation over the future of the village hall to Council. However, to provide a complete picture as possible, it may be prudent to obtain the market value to both sell and lease out the village hall.