

Clopton Village Hall Management Committee

Report for the Hall AGM and Clopton Annual Parish Meeting April 2025 to April 2026

Overall situation

Regular users of the hall have continued to support us and there have been individual hirings at the same level as in past years. There are still some unfilled regular weekly slots, particularly on Mondays and Fridays and many weekends with no bookings. It would be good to see the hall used more.

Financial position

The money from hire fees covers the basic running costs of the hall in spite of some increased costs, and leaves a little for improvements. We again received a generous donation from the New Year's Eve dance, and have suggested it is used for the benefit of "Off the Bus".

The financial year for the hall is the calendar year with the annual accounts presented and agreed at the hall AGM.

General maintenance of the hall and grounds

The hall is cleaned weekly by a local lady who always maintains a high standard.

A working group was formed to tackle small maintenance jobs on second Wednesday mornings and met regularly through the winter months. This has been very successful for jobs like replacing damaged and stained ceiling tiles and some outside jobs.

The hall and grounds have been kept in good condition by volunteers and committee members who have generously given their time. Regular cutting of the grass all summer was kindly carried out by Adrian Yallop, and gave first class care without using an outside contractor. Winter work on hedges was done by members of the Wednesday work group.

Fire alarms, extinguishers and emergency lights are checked regularly by an electrical contractor, who also does PAT testing.

Equipment on the playing field is inspected annually by ROSPA. The report from September 2025 included some minor issues. The report was copied to the Parish Council and remedial work was arranged by the Council.

Improvements to the hall

General guidance to organisations like ours is to keep reserve funds sufficient to cover a year's outgoings. We now have a balance considerably in excess of this and we are

looking for improvements using the extra money (always looking for good value of course).

Fibre broadband has been installed to the hall and fast WiFi is now available to users.

“Off the Bus” have had the badminton court markings renewed, improved storage of their equipment and have other improvements planned.

Provision of a terrace on the field side is under discussion with the Parish Council. This would be a Parish Council project with assistance from the committee.

The Management Committee

One change to membership of the committee in the past year is appointment of Councillor John Bailey as the Parish Council representative. The committee remains at its minimum size.

Committee meetings are all public meetings and we welcome input to the meetings from residents.

We are always looking for new people to help with the work and to bring new ideas. It is not onerous and residents are welcome to come to meetings, see what we do and perhaps decide to join us.

**John Dawson, Chairperson, Village Hall Management Committee
April 2026**