

Colmworth Village Hall – Policy for promoting community use and new activities.

Purpose

The Village Hall Trustees and Committee have expressed a wish to see the hall used more frequently for community events and to encourage new activities at the hall for the benefit of residents of the village.

The purpose of this document is to set out the objectives the Committee wish to achieve and provide a clear and fair framework that is easy to understand and operate.

Objective

The hall is provided and maintained as a facility for the benefit of the community of Colmworth. Although the Trustees and Committee are primarily responsible for maintaining the fabric of the building, this can only be relevant insofar as the community engages with and uses the facility. The Committee is prepared to provide a limited amount of funding each year to subsidise certain events and activities that fall into one of three categories:

1. Supporting and promoting events where the primary aim is to bring the community together.
2. Encouraging new clubs, societies and activities at the hall which will benefit members of the village through an increased range and choice of recreational events.
3. Maintaining the continuation of existing clubs, societies and activities that are run for the benefit of the village community and are a 'not for profit' venture (i.e. run by volunteers and any charges are solely for covering costs) and don't involve fund raising for another organisation

Policy Framework

This sets out the Policy that the Committee will use to implement the objective set out above.

1. Supporting and promoting events where the primary aim is to bring the community together.

To be eligible for support under this measure the event must primarily be aimed at providing an event to which the whole community is invited and where the objective is to bring the community together in a social context at no, or minimal cost for the purpose of community cohesion, interaction and social well-being.

This excludes events where the aim is to promote or fundraise for another organisation.

Where an event is organised for the benefit of the community, and either no charge is made for those attending or a charge purely to cover costs (but the event is not intended to make a profit), the Village Hall will be made available free of charge for a maximum hire period of 3 hours and up to a maximum of 6 events per financial year.

The Village Hall committee also reserves the right to hold and sponsor events itself, which would therefore not incur any hire charges.

2. Encouraging new clubs, societies and activities at the hall which will benefit members of the village through an increased range and choice of recreational events.

If a new activity group, club or society is to be set up that will benefit the village community by offering residents a new or different choice of activity then the Committee is prepared to subsidise such a venture to get it going and to allow the organisers to test whether it is viable.

For such ventures the Committee will subsidise hires within a 3 month period up to a maximum of £120.

There will be a maximum limit of £500 applied to this policy within any single financial year.

3. Encouraging existing clubs, societies and activities that are run on a 'not for profit' basis.

We wish to see the continuation of existing clubs, societies and activities that are run for the benefit of the village community and are a 'not for profit' venture (i.e. run by volunteers and any charges are solely for covering costs) and doesn't involve fund raising for another organisation. We expect such activities to be self-financing and self-supporting. However, if the club, society or activity is liable to close because of short-term financial difficulty then they can apply for a subsidy of up to £50 per financial year towards hire charges. This policy is subject to an overall limit of £150 per financial year.

Adopted: 9 July 2024

To be reviewed: July 2025 (and annually thereafter)