PETT VILLAGE HALL

REVISED HIRE RATES FROM 1 APRIL 2022

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 17 January the Pett Village Hall Management Committee considered in detail the rates to apply for hiring the Village Hall from 1 April 2022 and unanimously agreed a simplified payment structure with increases that are essential if the Hall is to remain viable.

2. The decision follows a detailed investigation by a working group of Committee members into rates paid by other halls in Sussex, charges paid by other similar venues and the future financial outlook for the Hall.

Background

3. Pett Village Hall celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The Hall was the result of a visionary plan for giving the village a large, modern hall which is the envy of many other towns and villages in Sussex. Funds for the hall were obtained from a wide variety of grants, fund raising and donations. In addition, Pett Parish Council secured a Public Works Loan Board loan of £30,000. Mortgage payments for this have continued to be made by Pett Parish Council and residents living within the Pett Parish Council area have been charged an amount for this in their rate precept demand. The loan will come to an end in two to three years' time when the charge will no longer be included in the precept.

4. In return for this, Pett Council area residents have, generally speaking, paid half of the rates charged to those from outside the Parish area hiring the Hall. A reduction in rates is also made for those who regularly book the Hall.

5. Despite the significantly lower hire rates for Pett residents, far more people and organisations from outside the Parish hire the Hall, by as much as 80 – 90% of total hirers. There is no doubt that if the Hall relied solely on income from those living in the Pett Parish it would not be viable.

6. The survey undertaken by the Committee of charges applied by other village halls in Sussex showed that our percentage discount for local users is higher than other halls, often significantly so, and that our rates generally are lower than most halls of a comparable size and with comparable facilities.

7. Our income has been severely hit by the restrictions and closures imposed by the Government because of Covid, and many hirers are still reluctant to go ahead with bookings and cancel at the last minute. Hopefully this will ease as time goes by and the effects of the pandemic lessen but we cannot be sure. Although through the hard work of Clare Walker our Bookings Manager with help from Richard Smith our Treasurer we were able to secure a number of financial grants related to Covid related closures, these do not make up for our loss of income from hirers.

8. In addition, the costs of running the Hall are steadily increasing. Like everyone else, our utility bills are going up significantly and form a large part of our outgoings. These will only increase more and more. Inflation is also relatively high once again which has a bearing on our other costs. As referred to earlier, the Hall is now 20 years old and inevitably the maintenance costs are on the rise. The heating system is especially problematic and probably not as efficient or effective as it should be. The Committee are commissioning a survey of our heating system to see what changes might be made.

9. We have also made a number of improvements over the last couple of years or so to make the Hall more attractive for hirers including curtains and blinds in the main hall, free WiFi, a sound system in the main hall, new locks, LED lighting, a new website (which is very effective in bringing in new hirers) etc.

10. All these factors have led to the decision that the Committee has now made.

New Rates from 1 April 2022

11. The principles behind the new charges are:

    - A simplified and more readily understood structure
    - A closing of the differential between local and outside rates, but with an element of phasing in to allow hirers to adjust
    - Recognition of the important financial contribution our regular hirers make by applying lower rates to them – they have remained very loyal to us despite all the problems over the last two years
    - Fair and competitive rates that will enable us to remain financially viable and help to build up our reserves which are essential to enable us to meet unforeseen costs.

12. The new rates from 1 April 2022 are as follows:

General rates	
Main Hall	£20 per hour
Catherine Hollman Room	£18 per hour
Exclusive use of Building:	
Weekend	£770
Day	£320
Evening	£200

Rates of Hire Regular/Local

Main Hall	£15 per hour (£12 for first year for current regulars*)
Catherine Hollman Room	£13 per hour (£10 for first year for current regulars*)

*where the current rate is lower than this.

Exclusive use of Building:

Weekend	£575
Day	£240
Evening	£150

Kitchen: Included in all bookings at no extra cost
Weekend: Friday from 5pm/Saturday all day until 11.45pm/Sunday until 11am
Day: 8am-6pm
Evening: 6pm-11.45pm

13. The rates will be reviewed annually at the January meeting of the Committee.

14. The current rates are available on the Pett Village Hall website at https://www.pettvillagehall.co.uk/hire-rates

15. The Committee is grateful as always for the continuing support for the Hall from hirers and looks forward to a more stable and increasingly successful future.

Tim Rothwell
Chair, Pett Village Hall Management Committee
January 2022