

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fitted a replacement element in the water heater; - looked into improving the acoustics of the Belleme Room; - arranged the repair of the defective socket and heating switch in the Garden Room. 	<p>RW</p> <p>RW</p> <p>RW</p>
4. Chairman's report	<p>MB had announced the forthcoming AGM in GGN. MK was unable to attend but would provide slides on the heating project. NLT would present the Treasurer's report. LP would lay in some drinks and nibbles. The projector had failed, but turning it off for a period had fixed the problem.</p> <p>A stallholder had reported fumes from one of the heaters in the Main Hall. It was found to be unsafe and was now turned off. RW was investigating the costs of repair, but if necessary we could manage without it, since the weather was getting warmer and two electric radiators were available.</p> <p>MB had been advised that a different Parish Council member was now responsible for Village Hall issues. This person was also responsible for health and safety issues and had asked for an early meeting with MB.</p> <p>The Hall was supposed to obtain an Electrical Installation Condition Report every 4 years. MB had asked CS to do this.</p> <p>Although, as a charity, the Hall was not liable to business rates, the Valuation Office had demanded certain information, with the threat of a penalty if it was not provided. MB had now submitted it.</p> <p>MB continued to provide training on the PA system to occasional hirers. Users who wanted to use the system should be told to obtain the key to the PA box from Inspirations.</p>	<p>MK</p> <p>LP</p> <p>RW</p>
5. Treasurer's report	<p>NLT had circulated the final 2025 accounts and the February monthly accounts, and updated MB on the current position.</p> <p>March had been a good month so far with bookings of £3.9k, higher than usual, and expenses at a typical level, though the heater element replacement would be a significant cost (probably in April). The opening bank balance was £86,250, and if we assumed no loss in March and £58k costs for the heating project, that left a balance of £28,250. In the annual budget NLT had increased gas/electricity costs by £1k (due to closing bills for actual usage under the old contract) and had increased the bookings figure from £40k to £44k to reflect the increased hire fees. The result was a targeted break even for the year. However there was a possibility of unexpected costs, since we had recently been asked to update our declaration on</p>	<p>MB</p>

	<p>business and domestic use of gas and electricity and it was clear that it was almost entirely business. Business use attracted VAT at 20% and domestic at 5%. Our new Scottish Power contract included VAT at 20% but the old SSE contract had charged VAT at 5%. If a back payment had to be made to SSE it could be £2500 or more, resulting in an annual loss of that amount. We have set ourselves a target to grow reserves to £35-40k, and would need grants or donations of £10-15k to achieve that this year.</p> <p>MB said that the HMRC guidance on business and domestic use was reasonably clear but the Committee suggested contacting Tessa Hall to confirm that Village Halls were generally treated as business users.</p>	MB
6. Environmental project report	<p>Richard Palmer had made 2 applications for grants. One had been turned down, but the other was still open, subject to further information being provided by the end of the week. It was impossible to predict whether this would be successful, and if so, how much any grant would be. MK was obtaining an updated quote from ORAC to support the application.</p> <p>MK reported on negotiations with Scottish and Southern about the new electric supply. He had agreed their quotation but they needed further information about the heat pumps (and he was awaiting the form to be completed). A further issue was that PC had dug a hole where the trench for the new cable would have to go and discovered an inconveniently placed sewage pipe. If the cable was laid above the pipe it would be at slightly less than the required depth, and if this was not acceptable, either the cable would have to go under the pipe or the land above it would have to be raised slightly. Negotiations were grinding on, and MK expected that installation of the system would take place in May or June (though it would be necessary to avoid the Festival period in June). CS had prepared plans for the necessary electrical connections inside the Hall,</p>	
7. Maintenance, repairs & improvements	<p>MK would look into some problems with the Hall's audio cables.</p> <p>MB would approach Wallingford Glass to investigate why two of the windows were not opening.</p>	MK MB
8. Any other business	<p>LP mentioned that she had put a note in GGN about lost property held by the Hall, but none had been claimed. She was proposing to offer the organisers of George Michael concerts the cloth swags held in storage.</p>	

	<p>She and PC had done some work on the garden. PC had told her he would be on holiday during the Festival, so Committee members might have to assist if necessary. LP had heard from her daughter about someone who expressed an interest in becoming a VH Trustee but this person had not taken it any further. MB had had no responses to requests in GGN, but was keen to find new Trustees to allow for some turnover in the Committee. LP suggested it might be worth the Hall taking a market stall at the Festival to try and drum up interest. PD said he would find out from BM whether he actually intended to join the Committee in practice</p>	PD
9. Dates of future meetings	31.3.26 (AGM), 13.5.26, 15.7.26, 16.9.26, 18.11.26	All