**Chairman’s Report- High Ercall Village Hall- April 2021**

Since our last AGM we have had interesting and challenging times.

March 2020 was like no other! The Covid pandemic hit and we had to close very quickly. We were able to open for a short period with restrictions on numbers and social distancing being instigated. Over the pandemic, we were fortunate to receive business grants from Telford and Wrekin Council totalling £32,531.78, which we are very grateful for.

During the year we instigated a full survey of the Village Hall and now have detailed plans, full fire safety report and up to date electrical safety certificate. With these and our new planned layout of the proposed toilet and kitchen block plus the funds received from Telford and Wrekin Council, we are now able to move forward with the works to improve the facilities in the Hall.

During lockdown we took the opportunity to carry out some re-decoration work both inside and out. Our thanks must go to the volunteers who stepped in to help. With the top windows in the hall and both windows in the kitchen and new meeting room replaced, the hall is beginning to look better loved and cared for. There are still more decoration and a further window that will be completed in the near future.

The roof to the meeting room had a leak early in 2020. This had a temporary fix, however, it has become apparent that the whole roof needs replacing. This will be included in the plans for the upgrade to the toilet and kitchen works.

We have been fortunate to recruit 3 new committee members who have all have fitted in very well and have become valuable team members.

The village hall are now regularly using social media for both updating and providing space for the community.

We look forward to receiving the Section 106 money to allow us to add a walkway and seating around the playing field to provide a clean space for walkers.

The committee look forward to the lifting of the Covid restrictions to allow the community space to be open to all and I am glad to report that we are already receiving bookings for the coming months.

It was pleasing to note that during lockdown, people continued to use the playing field for exercise and play.

We have missed the Pride and Joy meetings over the pandemic. These meetings always provided a good social setting throughout the summer months not only forth participants but for the villagers as well. The plan is for them to return as soon as it is safe to do so.

I sincerely hope that we have continued to encourage village community spirit and will look forward to entertaining not only our long standing residents but also the new residents from Earls’ Keep and other new people in the village and surrounding areas.

I would like to thank the local community and the Parish Council for their continued support of the Village Hall.

My special thanks go to my fellow committee members who are all volunteers. They continue to work hard to allow the community to have a bar and a community space that is open for all.

Craig Bunyan

Chairman

High Ercall Village Hall