**Nacton Village Hall Report to APM**

The village hall affairs have settled down to something representing a post-Covid normality. We have lost some regular bookings from the scouts and the carpet bowls club but "casual" bookings have returned to per-COVID levels. The shortfall in regular booking has been made up by an increase in hours taken by Nacton & Bucklesham Under 5 pre-school (NBU5). They remain critical to our financial stability and the Trustees do as much as they can to support them in their various initiatives. The trials and tribulations of the child minding sector are well known and we are lucky to have a dedicated management team at the NBU5s who are determined to make it work.

The main threat facing the Trustees at the moment is the increase in the cost of electricity. We implemented a modest increase in fees at the start of the year and at the moment we have returned to pre-Covid levels of cash flow generating a small surplus to replenish the reserves we use to cover future refurbishment and major maintenance. But we face what will certainly be another significant jump in electricity costs in September when our current contract runs out.

Progress has been made in defining the potential plans to redevelop the hall. These have focused upon the proposals to extend the kitchen and make better use of the stage space by using it to increase the size of the back room. Both projects need convincing evidence of a return to financial stability before we can proceed but on those grounds we expect the more modest kitchen project will be likely to cross that line first. We will continue to explore funding potential.

The Trustees remain grateful to the Parish Council for its continuing support and to the village as a whole and the Community Council in particular for their continued patronage.