

Report from Bradfield Village Hall to Bradfield Parish Council

Bradfield Village Hall is pleased to provide the following update.

Christmas Fayre

On Saturday, we held a highly successful Christmas Fayre, featuring 26 stallholders, food vans, tea and cake facilities, and a bar offering mulled wine. Despite the weather, the event was extremely well attended and very well received by the community. We are pleased to report that the event raised over £1,200. In line with the decision made at the previous trustees' meeting, £500 of the proceeds will be donated to Acorn Village, a valued local residential charity supported by many within the community.

Annual General Meeting

Setting a date for the Annual General Meeting proved challenging due to extensive evening bookings in the hall. Starting the AGM at 8.15pm, which we felt was unsuitable for parents with young children and for older residents who may be reluctant to attend meetings late in the evening or after dark.

For these reasons, the AGM was scheduled for 4.30pm, which we believe is a reasonable late afternoon time. A number of trustees made arrangements to leave work or other commitments slightly early in order to attend, and we believe that anyone who genuinely wished to be present would have been able to make similar adjustments.

The AGM date was set within the required 15-month timeframe. Trustees met with Danielle Frost from the Rural Community Council of Essex to confirm the correct procedures for notice periods and publication.

Following this, Bradfield Rovers Football Club circulated incorrect AGM dates in the Bradfield Buzz and raised repeated queries with the RCCE regarding the process. They also distributed an outdated trustee nomination form to individuals who had expressed interest in standing. As these forms were no longer valid, those applicants were asked to complete the updated versions provided by the RCCE.

The only amendments made to the form by the Village Hall were the insertion of our charity name and registration number, as required. The actions taken by the Football Club caused unnecessary confusion and were not helpful to the process.

All individuals who submitted the correct nomination form will be attending the AGM on Wednesday evening.

Communications and Capacity

The Trustees would also like to highlight that resources are extremely limited at this time. Alongside dealing with day to day hall responsibilities, organising the Christmas Fayre, and completing the workload required for the AGM, there is simply not the capacity to take on further unnecessary challenges.

Recent criticism from the Grapevine editor has therefore not been helpful, as volunteers are already balancing significant commitments with very limited time. Going forward, it would be greatly appreciated if one of the new trustees would be willing to take on the responsibility for providing updates to the Grapevine, ensuring the workload is shared more evenly.

Bradfield Rovers Football Club – Hire Agreement

Bradfield Rovers Football Club have again failed to sign the current hire agreement and have not paid the appropriate hire fees, which remain set at the reduced weekday rate offered to all other regular hirers.

The Club has stated that the hire agreement “is not workable for a league football season”, though no clear explanation has been provided. Communication from the Club on this matter has frequently been discourteous in tone and has made constructive dialogue extremely difficult. This continues to place unnecessary strain on the working relationship between the BRF and the Village Hall.

The new Board of Trustees will review the hire agreement as a priority following the AGM. For clarity, any representatives or associated members of Bradfield Rovers Football Club will be required to declare an interest and will not be able to participate in discussions or decisions relating to the hire agreement as stated in the constitution.

General Update

Aside from the matters outlined above, Village Hall operations continue as normal, and there are no further issues to report at this time.

Thank you, Bradfield Village Hall Trustees.