

# **CLENCHWARTON MEMORIAL HALL**

## **Independent Examination / Audit**

**Prepared in consultation with the Management Committee**

**Financial Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

I have completed an independent examination / audit of the accounts for Clenchwarton Memorial Hall for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

I would like to thank the Secretary (Birgit Gipp), the Treasurer (Tracy Wilson) and the Chair (Annette Watts) for providing me with all the information required for the audit and for their hospitality.

Several matters were discussed with a view to helping the Memorial Hall management committee (henceforward referred to as "the M.C.") move forward with continuous improvement in their governance procedures.

The M.C. has ultimate responsibility for directing the activity of the Hall, ensuring it is well run and delivering the outcomes for which it exists.

### **The Hall's finances / activities**

Tracy shared bank statements with me including the Unity Trust Instant Access savings and current accounts.

I am delighted to report that the savings account stands at £14,204 (as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026), up from £4,726 in the previous year.

The pre-school nursery continues to use the hall for its activities, as do yoga classes and other hirers.

The hall will be used as a Polling Station on 7<sup>th</sup> May for the NCC Elections.

The Hall provides an E.V. charger point and a defibrillator.

Grants have been received from both the Parish Council and the Borough Council.

Every reasonable effort is made to promote the hall and its facilities and it is hoped that the forthcoming AGM will attract further interest.

An agreement between the M.C. and the local Parish Council (dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026) further cements the links between the two bodies. It promotes harmony rather than confrontation and, I believe, will be of practical benefit to both.

A major upgrade of the toilet facilities is underway which will provide for full wheelchair user access.

There are also plans to develop energy efficiencies via the solar panels and a newly introduced feed-in-tariff.

I remain content that the Hall Committee's financial accounting systems are both robust and transparent.

## **The Hall's website**

The website is still fairly new but all relevant policies have been adopted: Fire Safety / Complaints / Document Retention / Emergency evacuation / Health & Safety / Safeguarding / Training & Development / Hiring Agreement and Lone Worker.

All hirers can now make online bookings and payments via the website. Petty cash usage is minimal.

## **Application for charitable status**

Plans are well advanced and it is hoped that the Memorial Hall will soon become a registered charity.

Preliminary talks have taken place and are progressing at pace.

There was some discussion around this and I have provided some brief notes regarding the merits (or otherwise) of Incorporated charities.

The executive, together with all committee members, will need to tread carefully in the months and years ahead – but I believe the right team is in place to lead the Hall into its next chapter of community life.

## **Conclusions**

The signed agreement between the M.C. and the Parish Council is clearly a very positive development which bodes well for the future.

The new “executive” team, whom I met with today, is dynamic in its approach and is driving improvement in all facets of Hall business.

Financial and administrative arrangements are both adequate and efficient.

I would like to thank the Clenchwarton Memorial Hall management committee for inviting me to carry out this audit and for their full and enthusiastic co-operation in it.

**ROBIN GOREHAM**

11<sup>h</sup> April 2026

(Internal Auditor)