

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE COLOGNE ROAD COMMUNITY GROUP (CRCG)**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) HELD VIRTUALLY BY PROXY**

**13 OCTOBER 2020**

The past year (2019) has seen much reduced activity with the Committee meeting on only two occasions. No fund raising was undertaken in 2019 and income from room usage has remained the same. . At the 2019 AGM the Committee was unable to vote for a Chair as there were no members willing to stand. The current Chair at that time (Chris Corteen) offered to take on the Treasurer's responsibilities with the pending retirement of Dave Rance from this position. However Dave kindly offered to continue in the role to complete an ongoing dispute about a British Gas utility bill for the period prior to the signing of the new lease in February 2019. The amount was significant (£700) and Dorset Council were indicating that it would not be paid and that it was the Group's responsibility.

During the course of the summer Dave and Chris corresponded with the Council by e mail maintaining that the CCRG was not responsible for any utility bills for the events room before the new lease became effective. Dave was heroic in his argument and held his ground.

The first meeting held in 2019 was on 12 November and we were delighted to welcome some new members onto the Committee: Kim Major, Maggie Snook and Sheila Potticary. It was gratifying to know that folk are prepared to give of their skills and experience to help maintain and manage the Centre. In fact Sheila very bravely offered to be the Treasurer and this was welcomed unanimously. As a result Chris was prepared to stand as Chair again at the next AGM. Councillor Peter Wharf kindly offered to mediate in the utility bill dispute and he was able to subsequently report that Dorset Council would pay as that was in fact the legal position. It was also noted at this meeting that our ongoing running costs and bills would not be adequately covered by the current income from the hire of the facilities. This is despite the big effort of committee members in door knocking and handing out leaflets to encourage usage and inviting residents to our AGM last year. We have not paid our 5% of income to Dorset Council yet either. It was recognised that fundraising is the priority and it was decided to meet in January to discuss.

At the meeting on 28 January 2020 various fundraising ideas were discussed. Main thoughts were Bingo, Quiz evening, table top events, Christmas grotto. It was recognised that applying to funders was now difficult as we no longer had a specific project to fund but rather we were struggling with covering our running costs. Keith is making contact with organisations who may be able to assist. It does beg the question about the sustainability of the Centre if the usage is not increased significantly. Most funding organisations will not consider applications for running costs, including Wool Parish Council. The outgoing Treasurer, Dave, confirms that

paying our ongoing liabilities of insurance and utility bills will not be possible at the current level of income. This past year has also been expensive because the emergency lights required repair and the bill was £650.00. Dorset Council has been very clear in outlining our responsibility for fire and emergency testing and routine inspection and logging of lights, alarms and extinguishers. Thanks go to Pam and Dawn for taking this on.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dave Rance for his unstinting work and commitment to the CRCG over many years as Treasurer. He was there right at the outset of the project. He has been diligent in ensuring due financial accountability and reporting. Staying on this past 12 months when he had intended to finish this time last year is much appreciated as I know Dave would not have wanted to handover any loose ends.

Finally thanks to all the Trustees and members of the Committee who have wholeheartedly supported and recognised the importance of the presence of the Centre in this community. However the tricky questions remain – why are local residents not taking advantage of these facilities in their midst and how sustainable are they?

**N.B. This report was originally intended for the AGM in April 2020. Events of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown in March 2020 and subsequently prevented this from taking place and the situation regarding Govt. restrictions on social distancing continue as at 13 October 2020.**

Chris Corteen

Chair Cologne Road Community Group

# **Cologne Road Community Group**

## **TREASURERS REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019**

# COLOGNE ROAD COMMUNITY GROUP

## TREASURERS REPORT : 2019

Following months of delays and much chasing by the Group, February of 2019 saw the award of a Lease for the two community rooms from the newly created Dorset Council. This has allowed the Community Rooms to be used by several clubs, the Parish Council and for tea and coffee mornings. The world of politics added to the Groups income as a room was used on three occasions for local and general elections.

Having signed the lease it was somewhat surprising that the Group received a utility bill in May 2019 for almost £800. This was found to be an attempt by Dorset Council to assign charges to the Group prior to receipt of the lease. The Group vigorously refuted this claim and our thanks go to Councillor Wharf for his input in resolving the matter.

The year also saw the £2000 awarded by TESCO in 2018 spent on an array of much needed storage units. This together with some additional fixtures and fittings have made both rooms fit for hire to a wide range of people and organisations.

Fund raising proved difficult in 2019 and no income was generated from events nor were any grants received and that despite the Groups efforts. It remains a problem that while grants are available to Community Groups they are for the purchase of tangible assets and specifically exclude running costs. It is in this latter area where the Group will have to do better in 2020 as funds are dwindling.

These will be my final set of accounts for the Group as I will be retiring as Treasurer following the 2020 AGM. I should record that it has been both satisfying, and at times, challenging to see an idea develop into the facility we have today. I hope that funds will be forthcoming to allow the rooms to remain available for use within the community.

The attached Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet confirms the financial position of the Centre Committee as at 31 December 2019.



**D C Rance**  
**Treasurer**  
**25 February 2020**

# COLOGNE ROAD COMMUNITY GROUP

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

### YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
<u>Donations</u>		<u>Capital Works - New Room</u>	
Nil	0.00	Units and Installation	2100.00
		<u>Running Costs</u>	
		Insurance	233.02
<u>Fundraising Events</u>		Utilities - British Gas	1123.54
Nil	0.00	- Water	195.31
		Fixtures/Fittings	131.07
		Fire Certification	80.44
		Emergency Lighting	654.00
<u>Income</u>		Refreshments / Cleaning Stock / etc	154.80
Hire of Community Room	2134.00	Cleaner	1140.00
Drop In Sessions	29.80		
			<hr/>
			5812.18
		Excess of expenditure over income (loss)	- 3646.38
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TOTAL	2165.80	TOTAL	2165.80

# COLOGNE ROAD COMMUNITY GROUP

## BALANCE SHEET YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

### Fixed Assets

Nil	<u>0.00</u>	0.00
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### Current Assets

Cash at Bank	455.98	
Cash in Hand	<u>43.35</u>	499.33

Unpaid Invoice - Wool PC (Note 1)	<u>50.00</u>	
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<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>549.33</b>
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<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>549.33</b>
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### Financed By :

Cash at Bank b/f 01/01/19	4035.06	
Cash in Hand	160.65	
Net Loss	- 3646.38	
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		549.33

Note 1 : Invoice due from Wool Parish Council - payment received in January 2020.