

HURSTPIERPOINT VILLAGE CENTRE

Charity No: 305265 c/o office@hurstpierpoint-pc.gov.uk 01273 833264
Parish Office, Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, WEST SUSSEX BN6 9UY

Annual Report

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026Introduction

The Village Centre has continued to meet its objective to provide public space for hire to the community of Hurstpierpoint and the surrounding area. It aims:

“To promote the benefit to the inhabitants of Hurstpierpoint and neighbourhood without distinction of sex or political, religious or other opinions by the provision and management of a Village Centre for the advancement of education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants”.

The Charity's governing document is a constitution adopted 19/02/1965, as amended on 22/05/1975, as amended on 03/11/2003, as amended on 29/06/2011, as amended by order dated 18/04/2005, as amended on 20 February 2019.

The Charity is managed by 1 “sole and custodian” trustee - Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common Parish Council.

Entrance Foyer

The entrance to the Village Centre continues to house the Hurstpierpoint Museum and Heritage Group's modest displays of local history. The exhibits are regularly refreshed and often themed with national events. The space and cabinets are gifted free of charge to benefit and educate locals.



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Users

The Village Centre's main regular hirers continue to be Star Dance, Agnes Dance Classes, Hurstpierpoint Gymnastics Club and Hurstpierpoint Pre-School. The Village Centre is home to many other long-established groups such as Scottish Country Dancing, Ballroom Glamour, Yoga, Pilates, Karate, Tai Chi, Kung Fu, Knit and Natter, Table Tennis, Heber Opera, Groove Dance Class, Fit Steps and the Move It or Lose It classes. The Sanctuary parent and toddler group on a Monday morning continues to be very well attended, as do the newer hirers with weekly session, such as the Tiny Tekkers toddlers football and Zumba.

Conference Room

There is still significant capacity for hiring the conference room as this is not fully utilised. Regular hirers of the Conference Room include Alcoholics Anonymous weekly, an afterschool art class on a term time Wednesday afternoon and Knit and Natter monthly. The Parish Council continues to hire the room for the majority of its Committee and Council meetings and some Working Group meetings.

Ongoing promotion of the Conference Room, for example in the June 2025 and June 2026 editions of the Hurst Life magazine, continues to attract more activities, meetings, training and events.

Events

Hurstpierpoint Parish Council, in partnership with Brighton Folk Choir and Hurst Rethink, hosted the third Hurstpierpoint Orchard Wassail on Saturday 10th January. In the afternoon around 60 people attended a workshop led by musician and Brighton Folk Choir leader Jo Burke. Participants were taught several traditional wassailing and procession songs and about the long history of wassailing in Britain. Tea, coffee and biscuits were provided to the hard-working singers!



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Usage

The Main Hall and Club Suite are almost full with nearly every session of the week booked. The Conference Room less so. A typical term time week of 21 sessions (7 days x morning, afternoon and evening sessions) shows:

Main Hall - 19 session booked out of 21 (week of 15 June 2026)

Club Suite - 13 sessions booked out of 21 (week of 15 June 2026)

Conference Room – 7 sessions booked out of 21 (week of 15 June 2026)

Maintenance Update

Regular servicing and maintenance continues to be undertaken, for example, the fire extinguishers, fire alarm, call points, exits and smoke/heat detectors are independently checked and serviced every six months and weekly in-house check are made. Portable appliance testing is undertaken annually. The 5 yearly fixed wire test and actions were undertaken in 2024/25 and will be due again in 2029/2030.

Property maintenance also included replacing five fire doors (£4,133), placing timers on the urinals to conserve water (£1,224), redecorating the Club Suite (£2,110), and further works to help maintain the main hall wooden floor (£3,168), which continues to receive excellent reviews from hirers, especially the ballroom dancers.

Repairs included the broken paving slabs on the steps into the Club Suite which continue to be an issue (£384) and clearing blocked drains (£259). The gas boilers were serviced (£437) and there were also two repairs to the boiler (£355 and £348).

In partnership with the Hurstpierpoint Society, the external benches were restored (£1,497) by replacing the wooden slats and affixing a plaque as shown below:



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Utilities

The electricity supply contract for the Village Centre from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027 is with Ecotricity, which uses all renewable and vegan friendly energy. The Gas supply contract from 1 June 2025 to 31 May 2027 is with Crown Gas and Power.

The water supplier ADSM (Advanced Demand Side Management Ltd) which commenced on 17 July 2023 has no specific end date and is billed annually in advance and corrected in the following years invoicing if required. The invoice for 2025/6 was £4,600 but for 2026/7 is only £600.

All the utility costs are carefully monitored to protect the risks to the budget as far as possible from fluctuations in energy prices. An expert utility broker company (CUB UK) is used to secure the best possible rates. Ways to reduce the use of energy have also been explored in 2025/26 to cut any wastage. Further sustainability measures have also been implemented to help reduce, re-use and re-cycle e.g. encouraging residents to recycle their printer cartridges which now provides a small income to the charity.

Village Centre Solar Panels

The Trustees explored the possibility of having solar / photovoltaic panels fitted to the south facing roof with a battery storage programme. Unfortunately, a report found that because the roof is covered with single ply EPDM, with a mock standing seam and a pitch greater than 5 degrees, a weighted mounting frame will not be suitable. Looking at alternatives, fixing the solar array to the structure of the roof, by penetrating the roof covering, whilst keeping the site watertight would also be problematic due to the EPDM covering. The conclusion was that currently the roof does not seem to be suitable for solar. The Trustees noted the outcome of the survey and although it was disappointing news, the Trustees agreed to revisit the initiative in three to five years' time as the technology may evolve.



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Financial Position

The year end position was not as positive as the previous year 2024/25, which saw a surplus of surplus of £3,366. However, the deficit in 2025/6 was only £18, which demonstrates good management of the budget throughout the year.

The original income target was £54,150 and this was exceeded with an actual income of £65,432 i.e. by 121%. Bank interest returned £1,343 against a budget of £1,250.

The total expenditure of £65,360 was an underspend of £1,080, against the original budget of £66,440. The main underspend of £2,099 or 65% was against the gas budget. This is due to cautions budgeting to ensure sufficient funds would be available in an uncertain market, budgets were increased at the budget setting time to cover worst case scenarios that did not entirely materialise. However, water was overspent by £756 or 120% due to industry increases.

The property maintenance budget was 12% overspent but the grant of £2,000 in miscellaneous income (for the new fire doors) off-set this.

Related Party Disclosure: The Parish Council provides management, administrative and financial support to the charity and during the year the Parish Council charged the charity £17,516. In return the Parish Council paid the charity £1,950 for use of the office space within the Village Centre.

The balance sheet shows the total current net assets of the Charity at 31 March 2026 as £92,975 (which was £92,993 on 31 March 2025), a decrease of £18 on the previous year.

The annual independent inspection of the accounts took place on 25 June 2026 and the report was presented to the Trustees at the Annual General Meeting on 23 July 2026.

The annual return will be submitted by the Clerk, to the Charity Commission by its deadline of 31 January 2027.

Sarah Groom, Clerk to the Trustees