

Bourne Freemasons Club, Report 12/08/2025

Brethren,

I am pleased to give you an update from BFC and just to let you know whilst we have not had any individual meeting since the beginning of the year we do keep in contact with committee members regularly by means of email and general discussion, however as you can see by this report it covers many of the issues discussed and proposed from previous agendas:

The BFC accounts were audited by the masters of Hereward and Aveland Lodges and their confirmation is on the BFC website.

The bifold doors to the bar have been fitted and are in use, we do now have to consider these doors to have an annual service for which the installing company have quoted £440 per annum for a three year contract.

W Bro Elton has taken on the role of caretaker for the next few months to help us out, and, in response to members opinion, the bar area and surrounds have been made more cosmetically appealing and provide a much improved and comfortable ambience. As you will see Tony has done a marvellous job in this respect and we hope this leads to further use of the premises for Masonic social events.

We also have started to redecorate individual rooms and doors of the building and will be continuing as time allows.

Bro Phillip Knapp is now taking over the role of Bar Manager and we thank W Bro Haynes for his many years sterling work in looking after the bar.

The external surfaces of the front of the building have been attended to with the fascias being repainted, along with the door grills and railings. We have replaced the fire door (exit from dining hall) and have altered the robing room as per our previous minutes and have installed new vertical blinds to replace the existing old curtains.

The front triangle has been trimmed and the fencing around re-painted, along with the hedging along the north border of the premises cut back and tidied and are having the regular grass cutting as last year.

We have also changed the extractor fans in the toilets. A Health and Safety audit has been carried out by our Health and Safety officers, and their recommendations are being attended to (chiefly new signage for exits). The honours boards have been brought up to date via our sign writer.

The ramp that leads up from the main car park to the pavement at the front of the building has now been marked out clearly in yellow squares to show the wheelchair access remains clear at all times.

As you can see brethren we continue to manage the premises, I hope to everyone's expectation, I am also pleased to confirm that our finances are in good shape, and we have been able to fund the changes mentioned in this report.

Whilst we have now lost the previous year's business rate subsidy from SKDC, our treasurer continues to monitor the finances closely and apart from the rising costs we all face currently, we are happy that all appears in order for the following 12 months.

We have sent out (and already received) the annual capitation/ fees and as you recall we decided to charge a fair and equal amount per meeting to all Masonic lodges using the facilities instead of the previous capitation arrangement, which has been well received.

We will also be reviewing the charges to the regular hirers of the premises but have to keep

abreast of the ever increasing running costs we face.

We continue to assist local charities by allowing free or discounted use of our hall and thank those members who volunteer their time in helping run these events.

In due course, we will also be looking at certain aspects of the rear of the building (rendering of part of the exterior wall, new rain water downpipes, tidying up of some old cables, replacing vent panels) when finances and time allow.

We are also in the process of researching the installation of broadband within the building and will also look at the feasibility of solar panels being fitted in the near future.

We may also look at the possibility of putting a grill up around the bar area.

Finally, a vote of thanks for each members continued input in the daily running of the premises and I hope the changes and work already carried out are plain to see.

S and F

Ian Bratley.
Chair Person BFC.