

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF HIRE
Helmdon Reading Room
(Operated by Helmdon Community Foundation CIO. Charity number 1192054)

Please contact the booking officer if you require clarification of any of the Terms and Conditions of Hire. The contact details for the officers of Helmdon Community Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "HCF") are available on the notice board in the Reading Room. **These Terms and Conditions MUST be read in conjunction with any Special T&Cs in operation. Where there are contradictions the Special T&Cs apply.**

1. Payment and deposit

The Hirer shall pay the hire charge together with the required damage deposit (if any) as shown on the hiring agreement in accordance with the timescales shown on the invoice. If paid, the deposit will be refunded, provided there is no loss or damage to the hall; that the hall has been left in a clean and tidy condition; and that the duration of the hire has not exceeded the time booked. The refund of the deposit in whole or in part is at the discretion of HCF.

2. Cancellation or postponement by Hirer

Any damage deposit paid will be refunded in full. In addition, if more than 2 weeks' notice from the proposed date of hire is given, up to 100% of the hire charge will also be refunded. If between 1 & 2 weeks' notice is given, up to 50% of the hire charge will be refunded. For less than 1 weeks' notice 0% of the hire charge will be refunded. However, regardless of the notice given, HCF reserves the right to withhold any or all of the hire charge as an administration fee, at their sole discretion.

3. Maximum Capacity of Hall

The maximum capacity of the hall is 98 people. It is the responsibility of the hirer to ensure that this limit is not exceeded at any time during the hire.

4. Capacity of Hirer

All hirers must be aged 18 or over and are responsible for ensuring the premises are used only for the purpose described in the Hire Booking Form. Hirers may not sub-hire or allow the premises to be used for any unlawful purpose, or in any unlawful way.

5. Access

HCF reserves the right to have access to the premises at any time. If HCF believes that the terms and conditions are in any way being breached, the right is reserved to terminate the event with immediate effect and no monies paid will be refunded.

6. Supervision during hire period

The Hirer must be present at all times during the period of hire, and take responsibility for the supervision, behaviour and Health & Safety of all those attending the event. The Hirer is responsible for making others aware of the emergency fire exits and evacuation routes, and to ensure the fire exits are not obstructed at any time. Guests should be made aware that noise in the environs of the hall, should be kept to a minimum. The drive must be left free at all times as it is a fire exit used solely by the tenant of the cottage next door.

7. Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults

Where the Hirer is an organisation or group, they must have in place a policy for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. If this is not possible then they must follow the policy produced by the Reading Room.

8. Damage

The Hirer is responsible for ensuring the premises and their contents are not damaged or misused, and shall indemnify HCF for the cost of any damage to the premises or their contents as the result of the hiring, which shall not be limited just to the damage deposit paid.

9. Licences

The Hirer is responsible for obtaining any licences which may be required in connection with the hiring. If alcohol is to be **sold** on the premises, the hirer must obtain a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) from West Northamptonshire Council. A copy of the TEN must be handed to the Booking Officer before the event. The Hirer must ensure the terms of the TEN are fully observed, together with regulations applicable to the premises stipulated by the Local Authority, Fire Authority, Local Magistrates, or other legally constituted body.

The Reading Room holds an Umbrella Licence issued by MPLC, Eastbourne which covers the copyright payment for the public exhibition of films and TV programmes. The Hirer must check that any film title they wish to show is covered by this licence. Please ask us for assistance if needed.

10. Period of hire

Setting up and clearing away time for all bookings must be included within the period of hire. In addition, the hall **must always** be vacated by 12 midnight.

11. Responsibility

The Hirer is responsible for any equipment, including electrical equipment, brought onto the premises for the period of hire. They must ensure it is in good working order and used in a safe manner and shall take responsibility for the insurance of such items. HCF does not take responsibility for the loss or damage to any goods, including equipment, clothing, jewellery, vehicles or their contents, or money, of the Hirer or the Hirer's guests or employees during the period of hire.

12. Kitchen hygiene

If food is prepared or served during the hire, the Hirer must ensure all relevant food hygiene and safety regulations are observed, Children under the age of 16 are not permitted in the Hall's kitchen unless supervised by an adult. If using the dishwasher, please ensure you follow the instructions and leave it clean.

13. End of hire

At the end of the hire, the Hirer is responsible for leaving the premises in a clean and tidy condition, ensuring floors are swept, tables and chairs are clean and returned to and stacked in their storage areas. Both the kitchen area and kitchen equipment must be left clean.

Rubbish must be dealt with as detailed in the Hirer's Guide. Any rubbish that will not fit easily into the bins must be removed from the site and disposed of separately.

When leaving the hall, the Hirer will ensure that all lights are turned off, that the building is properly secured, including closing all windows, closing and locking all doors, and the keys returned to the Booking Officer, or a nominated representative of HCF.

14. End of hire Inspection

HCF reserves the right to inspect the Hall after the period of hire, and in the event that the premises are not in a clean and tidy condition, to withhold some or all of the Hirer's damage deposit.

15. Right of Cancellation

The Hirer accepts that HCF has, in exceptional circumstances, the right to cancel without prior notice, any booking made (for instance should the hall be required for use as a polling station, for a funeral wake or when building works require the building to be shut), in which case the liability of HCF shall be limited to the return of all monies paid to HCF for that specific hiring. In the event that the Hall is rendered unfit for use in the opinion of HCF (e.g. flood, fire, repair work etc.), the liability of HCF shall be limited to the return of all monies paid to HCF for that specific hiring.

This version of the Terms & Conditions applies to all bookings and supersedes all previous versions.

Effective date 1 January 2024 (v.14)