

Ridgewell Village Hall – Pricing Structure Transparency Document

A new pricing policy was created in 2026 to address the future viability of Ridgewell Village Hall. The following explains this process and answers general questions relating to that process.

Why were the hire charges reviewed?

The hire charges had remained unchanged for several years despite increases in the cost of utilities, insurance, maintenance and other day-to-day operating expenses.

The Village Hall Management Committee has a responsibility to ensure the Hall is financially sustainable and remains available for future generations. It reports directly to the Parish Council, as Sole Trustee.

Following a review of the Hall's finances, it became clear that the existing charges were no longer sufficient to cover the cost of operating the Hall.

Were the new charges introduced to make a profit?

No.

The revised charges were introduced to enable the Hall to cover its operating costs and reduce reliance on reserves to fund day-to-day expenditure.

The Committee's aim is to ensure that reserves can be used for maintaining, repairing and improving the Hall rather than subsidising its routine running costs.

How was the decision made?

The decision followed a review of the Hall's financial position, operating costs and long-term sustainability.

The revised charges were discussed by the Village Hall Management Committee and approved through the Hall's governance arrangements.

Were existing hirers given advance notice?

Yes.

Existing commercial hirers were advised of the revised charges early in 2026.

The new charges did not take effect until after Easter, providing several months' notice so that hirers had time to consider the impact on their business and make any adjustments they felt appropriate.

Why do community groups pay different rates?

The Committee recognises the important contribution that local community groups and voluntary organisations make to village life.

Concessionary rates continue to be available for eligible community organisations, while a consistent charging structure applies to commercial hirers.

This approach helps support community activities while ensuring fairness and financial sustainability.

Are the hire charges publicly available?

Yes.

The Hall's hire charges are published through the online booking system, making them transparent and accessible to everyone.

Are people still hiring the Hall?

Yes.

The Village Hall continues to welcome a wide range of regular hirers, community groups, private functions and events.

We are also pleased to be welcoming new regular classes and continue to receive enquiries from organisations interested in hiring the Hall.

How are decisions made?

The Village Hall Management Committee is made up of volunteers who give their time to manage the Hall on behalf of the community.

Committee members have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the charity, ensuring that decisions are made fairly, responsibly and with the long-term future of the Hall in mind.

Why doesn't the Committee comment on individual situations?

The Committee respects the privacy of all current and former hirers.

For this reason, it does not discuss individual bookings, correspondence or personal circumstances publicly.

Does the Committee make exceptions to the published commercial hire charges?

To ensure fairness and consistency, commercial hire charges are applied equally to all commercial hirers. This means businesses are treated consistently, and no commercial

organisation is placed at an advantage or disadvantage compared with another. This approach reflects the Committee's responsibility to manage the hall fairly and transparently.

How can I raise a question or concern?

The Committee welcomes constructive feedback.

If you have a question about the Village Hall or its operation, please contact the Committee directly by email – rvhchairman@gmail.com. We will always do our best to respond openly, professionally and respectfully.