The Village Institute continues to provide a community facility for a wide range of groups. There are currently 8 regular weekly users, 3 users on a monthly basis and several other regular users who use on a less frequent basis. Bookings remain steady with morning and evenings pretty much fully booked, but afternoons remain largely free.

The Parish Council continues to rent the office at the back of the Institute which ensures a regular income. Early in 2018, it was noted by Trustees that there had not been any increase in rental charges for many years. Therefore, with plenty of notice, the hire charges for the hall have increased by inflation and 1% with effect from April 2019. This equates to an increase of 29p for weekday hire for an hour and an increase 58 pence for weekend hire. The rent for the Parish Council Office has also increased.

During the year 2018/19 the trustees have employed a surveyor to undertake a survey of the building. One of the main areas of concern raised in his report is that the roof needs the moss clearing but there are also broken tiles. This will be a major undertaking for the charity.

Income for the Year: £13,368.73
Expenditure for the Year: £12,349.53
Profit for the year £1,019.20

The Village Institute charity has continued to work with solicitors, Birketts, towards the potential new community hub. It has been agreed, by the Charity Commission, that the two charities ‘Longstanton Village Institute’ and ‘Longstanton Recreation Ground’ can merge to become one charity ‘Longstanton Village Hall and Recreation Ground’. This will form the basis of the work towards the new community hall. The Recreation Ground and new build will be owned the newly merged Longstanton Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity and the project for the proposed work will be undertaken by the charity.

Having gained lots of advice, it is clear that the charity needs the support and input from the community. It has been advised that the Trustees should have overview of the charity, but a ‘management committee’ be in place to carry out the day to day work for the charity and make recommendations to Trustees for decision making. So, please keep an eye out for future correspondence when we will be asking for residents support to help make the project a reality.

_Cllr John Street_
_Chairman of Longstanton Village Institute Charity_