

Redwick Village Storage of Third-Party Items Policy

Document Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to Redwick Village Hall's Management Committee with regards to the storage of third-party items.

Introduction

Allowing a third party to store equipment or paperwork at a village hall can have several potential downsides:

Security Concerns

Unauthorized Access: The presence of third-party belongings could increase the risk of unauthorized access, potentially compromising the security of the village hall and its users.

Liability Issues: If any stored items are lost, damaged, or stolen or cause injury or death then the Hall might face liability claims or disputes. Note: UK law does not allow a potential claimant to sign-away any rights to make a claim.

Space Management:

Limited Space: The Hall has limited storage space, which is reserved for community activities and events. Allocating space to third-party storage could restrict the hall's usability.

Clutter and Safety Hazards: Excess equipment or paperwork can create clutter, posing safety hazards and making it difficult to maintain a clean and organised environment.

Maintenance and Upkeep:

Increased Wear and Tear: Additional items stored in the hall can lead to increased wear and tear on the facility, leading to higher maintenance costs.

Responsibility for Care: The Hall volunteers would need to take on the additional responsibility of ensuring the stored items are kept in good condition, which can be burdensome.

Insurance and Legal Implications:

Insurance Coverage: The hall's insurance policy does not cover third-party items, potentially leading to coverage disputes in case of damage or loss.

Legal and Contractual Issues: Storing third-party items might require detailed agreements to outline responsibilities and liabilities, which can be legally complex and time-consuming to manage.

Community Impact:

Fairness and Equity: Allowing one third party to store items could set a precedent, leading to other requests and potential disputes over fairness and access.

Reduced Availability for Community Use: The primary purpose of the village hall is to serve the community. Allocating space for third-party storage could reduce its availability and functionality for community events and activities.

Summary

While it might seem convenient to accommodate third-party storage requests, the potential drawbacks often outweigh the benefits. Prioritising the village hall’s primary function as a community space ensures it remains a safe, organised, and accessible resource for everyone. It is for this reason that the Board of Trustees do not allow the storage of any third-party items at the Hall.

Version Control - Approval and Review

Version No	Approved By	Approval Date	Main Changes	Review Period
1.0	Board of Trustees	12 th December 2024	Initial draft approved	Annually