

Melbourn Community Hub Management Group

Quarterly Report for Melbourn Parish Council Meeting 30th September 2026

The Hub board update starts on a sad note with the passing of John Travis. John's contribution was truly significant, having joined the Hub project team tasked with driving the building of Melbourn Hub, after the Parish Council's initiative to create The Hub was set in motion over 13 years ago. John then went on to be part of the Hub Management Group and served as our fantastic chair for several years.

John's passion for The Hub was evident, and his wisdom and dedication and most of all his friendship, will be very much missed by all of us at Melbourn Hub.

Room Hire

The Parish Council from 1st August 2026, now occupy two rooms on the upper floor of The Hub. This agreement was made with the Hub Management Group, as the Parish Council workforce is expanding and had outgrown the Parish Office room. Under a change to the license to occupy arrangements between the parties, Melbourn Parish Council now also has use of the Dickens room.

Other room hire business remains brisk in addition to our regular hirers such as the Cambridge Building Society and health services including podiatry, osteopathy and GP surgery blood tests.

Air conditioning in the meeting rooms was a huge bonus during the extreme weather and there was some demand for ad-hoc hire from home workers unable to tolerate the heat at home!

Cafe Operations

Cafe trade has been strong this year, with footfall generally high, thanks to Gemma Dowling our Hub manager and excellent team of catering staff and volunteers.

The extreme hot weather, as might be expected, affected trade at times due to the absence of air conditioning in the Atrium. Some large fans were obtained but could not provide sufficient relief on the hottest days and staff and volunteers were also adversely affected.

The Hub board are looking at the prospect of addressing this problem ahead of next summer and will be contacting Melbourn Parish Council with a proposal shortly.

We have been pleased to offer work positions to many of our young villagers, mindful that employment opportunities for young people are generally scarce. The mix of experienced staff, volunteers and young people works very well indeed and creates a real sense of community.

Library

The library continues to be supported by volunteers. Story time for the under 5s is held weekly during term time led by a library volunteer Mandy and some free children's films have been shown after trade on a Saturday afternoon, organised by library volunteers under The Hub's film license that it holds.

Events

Several events have been held, including daytime activities during trade time at Easter and we have also offered popular concerts featuring local artists. Our next event is on 24th October with singer Ellen Blane, and we have plans for Winnie the Pooh's centenary, a Halloween trail, plus our annual Christmas Craft Fair and of course Turn on to Christmas which brings the village out in force.

Offering affordable entertainment locally fits entirely with the ethos of The Hub.

Marketing and Promotion

We have a consistent and well-oiled approach to promotion of The Hub and its services, contributing to the success of The Hub operation.

Financial

Melbourn Community Hub Management Group continues to oversee an array of services and amenities whilst continuing to remain financially self- sufficient in providing these.

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