

Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall

Public Meeting Wednesday 8 October 2025

7.00pm at the village hall.

To consider the future governance of the village hall and the proposal to convert from an Unincorporated Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Lydeard St Lawrence Village Hall is a registered charity (no 304579). Since 1963, when the hall was purchased from the Church, the hall has been run by a management committee. The committee is set up as an unincorporated charity, in accordance with a governing document that formed part of the conveyance. The committee has trustees appointed by the Church and other organisations that use the hall, tasked with making the hall available for the benefit of the inhabitants of Lydeard St Lawrence and the neighbourhood.

As an unincorporated charity the village hall charity is not able to enter contracts in UK law, so any contracts to use or maintain the village hall are made with the trustees personally. Should anything go wrong the trustees' liability is not limited.

This potential liability has put off some people, who might otherwise have made a valuable contribution to activities at the hall, from joining the village hall committee.

The current trustees have considered this and other benefits of conversion at length and decided to progress conversion to a CIO, having taken advice from the Somerset Community Council and others. This meeting is part of the process to convert the village hall charity to a CIO, giving the opportunity for local people to find out more and express any concerns they may have before the application to the Charity Commission is made formally.