



Hallmark 1: Charity administration and management. Hallmark 1 focuses on charitable administration and management. It assesses whether the hall is complying with the requirements of its charitable status.

Please arrange for a minimum of two people and no more than four to be present at the visit, one of whom should be an officer of the committee. It would be helpful if one of these could be a representative from a user group.

Documentation to be made available to visitors:

- Minute book/file (with agendas) for all meetings including the AGM.
- A copy of the accounts to be sent with entry or as soon as possible before the visit.
- Daily record of all receipts and payments (book or computer records).
- A copy of the charity's Annual report.
- A copy of the Trust Deed or Charity Commission scheme or Community Association Constitution i.e. the governing documents of the charity to be sent with entry or as soon as possible before the visit.
- Booking diary/calendar.
- Hiring agreement and returned booking forms, any instructions to hirers.
- Insurance policy and certificate.

Any other written policies/paperwork you feel would be useful for the visitors to see to back up your management of the hall.

Hallmark 1 Checklist for Village Hall Management Committee

All items in bold must be achieved and 70% of the remainder excluding those that are not applicable to your hall

	Check	Evidence
	COMMITTEE	
1	Trust deed available for committee members	Copy available for visitor to see and ask committee members present. Copy sent at time of application
2	At least two meetings held annually or as stipulated in the trust deed	Minute book/Trust Deed
3	50% of committee attend meetings	Look at minimum of 12 months or 6 meetings
4	Well-kept minutes	Check minutes are well kept, in order, numbered and a copy has been signed by the Chair. Minutes should show number of committee members attending meetings.
5	List kept of all committee members names and addresses and when they came into office (and when they resign)	Charity Commission annual return or working record. Are all committee members given a list of members and contact addresses?
6	Minutes to record trustees acceptance of their responsibilities on taking up office	Sight of page or declaration in the minutes in which trustees confirm their acceptance of their responsibilities each year.
7	Evidence that organisations (regular user groups) appoint representatives	Minute book & signing of minute book at first meeting after AGM. Where this isn't a requirement of the governing document, the committee has made some effort to ensure their committee is representative. e.g. letters inviting user groups to nominate representative for committee
8	Charity Commission CC3 The Essential Trustee is given to committee members	Ask committee members present.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING		
9	AGM is held annually - in or close to the month shown in the trust deed	Trust Deed & minutes taken at AGM. If significant change of month is there a note with working copy of Trust Deed?
10	Evidence that AGM is conducted correctly i.e. in accordance with the trust deed	Trust Deed/Minute book. Letters asking for user group representatives. Chair not to be elected at the AGM (unless CA constitution). Correct number of persons elected (can be less but not more than stated in Trust Deed)
11	Annual report prepared in accordance with charity law for income level	Sight of report

ACCOUNTS		
12	Policy in place for financial procedures	Sight of policy
13	Well-presented accounts	Accounts (Copy of annual accounts sent at time of application)
14	Accounts are independently examined	See signature on accounts and Independent Examiner statement
15	More than one trustee knows of the auditor/independent examiner	Ask committee members
16	Accounts approved and signed by trustees at meeting before their adoption at the AGM, or in accordance with the Trust Deed	Accounts Note: All trustees need to be aware of the financial situation but all the trustees do not need to sign
17	Cheques are signed by two (unrelated, unconnected) committee members	Ask who the signatories are. Treasurer should have record/policy of how many signatories in total. ACRE recommend 4 signatories to deal with holidays/illness

18	Accounts indicate that the committee is managing the finances responsibly	Positive balances are desirable, or where there is a shortfall an explanation is provided in the annual report and notes to the accounts
19	Daily record of all receipts and payments are kept up to date	See book or computer spreadsheet as appropriate. Evidence that receipts are given for cash

	HIRING	
20	Hiring agreement used for all bookings	Sight of hiring agreement and returned copies from hirers
21	Clear arrangements for access to the hall and key collection	Ask committee members present or/sight of written instructions. Do 'test' booking.
22	Instructions to hirers on use of the hall	Printed instructions with booking/on view
23	Organised payment procedure in place	Ask committee members/view written policy/procedure. Evidence of hirers being invoiced, receipts given for deposits taken.
24	There is a clearly understood policy on the practices and procedures for hiring the hall i.e. hiring to under 18s, commercial bookings and deposits which are used for all b	Verbal acknowledgement, sight of policy or evidence in minutes of the policy being adopted. Ask to see hiring rates for different community groups (e.g. residents of area, outside area, commercial).
25	The policy on the practices and procedures for hiring the hall is recorded in a written policy	Sight of policy

	INSURANCE	
27	Building, Public liability, Contents	Sight of policy. Certificate of public liability and employers liability if appropriate. If there is no certificate of public liability, may need to rely on original policy or renewal notice
28	Employers liability insurance certificate current and displayed, if appropriate	Current copy of employers liability insurance certificate on view (if staff, e.g. caretaker, cleaner etc. are employed)
29	Insurance cover reviewed annually	Minute book, committee agendas
30	Compliance with any insurance conditions	e.g. locks on windows

	NOTICES	
31	Health and Safety Poster	Village hall management committee has same duty of care to volunteers as employees
32	Contact name / number for the hall	Full address and postcode on display in hall for hirer contact with emergency services
33	Premises Licence Summary or copy	Unless a premises licence can be shown not to be necessary e.g. no regulated activities are being conducted without a 'TEN' issued
34	At least one legible, No Smoking, sign displayed at the premises	It is a legal duty to display at least one legible no-smoking sign

	MAINTENANCE: OUTSIDE OF HALL	
35	Evidence that outside of hall is well maintained e.g. free of litter, gutters free of debris, planted areas are well maintained, doors and windows in good condition	View and note
	MAINTENANCE: INSIDE OF HALL	
36	Evidence that inside of hall is well maintained, clean and tidy, e.g. main hall decoration is in fair to good condition; kitchen is adequate and clean and the equipment is in safe condition; toilets are adequate and clean; furniture is in fair to good condition.	View and note

For more information on any of the above see ACRE village hall information sheets. Or e-mail halls@wrccrural.org.uk