

Village Hall Report-10th July 2024 Parish Council Meeting

Following an inspection of the village hall by the trustees, it has been discovered that the floor-standing cupboards in the kitchen, are infested with dry rot. The trustees have therefore decided to remove the cupboards and worksurfaces and replace them with mobile stainless steel units. We have approached the district and county councillors for a contribution to the new kitchen units. We would be very grateful if the Parish Council could see its way clear to also supply some funding.

A clothes bank is now sited at the front of the hall; for every kilo of clothes and shoes in the bank, the village hall receives 35p. We hope to raise a few hundred pounds per year. The response from villagers has been overwhelmingly positive to this recycling initiative. We hope to launch more green and sustainable projects soon.

This year Hargrave Honey will be donating 80% of its takings to the village hall. The clothes bank and honey money are part of our long term strategy to increase funding for the hall.

The trustees and management committee will meet in late August to discuss the way forward for the hall. It's recognised that the status quo isn't sustainable. If we do decide that a new hall is required, we will be commissioning a village consultation. If the consultation supports either a major refurbishment or rebuilding of the hall, the trustees will be looking at options for major fundraising within the village as well as from outside sources.

The trustees have received legal advice from two solicitors, one of whom is a specialist in charity law. Following the advice, we are now regularising the position of the trustees and in due course will register the land and the hall. Once the legal process is completed, we will be able to move forward on a more secure legal footing.