



Hargrave Village Hall - Exploring the Options 2019

Neighbourhood Plan Community Action No 6

The Parish Council will seek to establish a Working Group to investigate opportunities for the improvement of the existing village hall or the possible construction of a new village hall for the village in full liaison with residents and the users of the existing facility. Further to the community action identified in the Neighbourhood plan a small working group made up of Parish council members and the Village Hall committee met on January 28th to scope out the working plan to achieve the community action as outlined above.

Background.

The Village Hall was built in 1926 and is owned by the village and managed through the Parish Council. The Parish Council set up a Village Hall committee tasked with day to day management of the village Hall. It has been well looked after and a number of alterations have occurred to make it compliant with legislation like the Disability act and to meet the changing needs of groups and individuals using the Hall. It consists of a reasonable Hall space with a kitchen, toilets and a small storage space at one end. At its rear it faces directly onto an agricultural field whilst in the front it has a small green area and car park.

The construction of the Hall reflects the standards and expectations of the 1920`s and consequently has low levels of insulation and suffers from damp in places. The Hall has been an important resource for the village over the past 92 years and the plans which the village needs to now consider should be viewed in the context of planning a resource meeting the requirements of the village for at least another 50 years.

First draft plan for completing this work:

Action list:

1. Complete an initial assessment of the building and its use.
2. Establish the views of the village as to its future use.
3. Start to identify realistic options
4. Share with village the options explored and establish the preferred option.
5. Cost out the option in detail and outline a plan for achieving that goal.
6. Start and complete the option as agreed.

Complete an initial assessment of the building and its use and views of village. To include a comprehensive assessment of the existing building, its structure and its likely remedial work over the next 5 -10 years and beyond.

An up to date assessment of its current usage and that which falls to groups and individuals within the village and those users from outside the village. Obtaining the views of current users of the Hall as to its positives and negatives aspects and their wish list for future changes to the resource.

The working group that met on the 28th January agreed to work on the above over the next few weeks with a view to presenting to the village at the May Annual Parish meeting an update on progress so far.

Action list:

Catherine Williams to speak to the structural engineer involved in their work at home to see what advice he could offer.

David Taylor to contact Ron Ambridge to seek his advice on the above as well.

Jill Upton to identify current usage of the hall over the past few years including from inside and outside the village.

Jill Upton to devise and share with Catherine a questionnaire for users of the Hall as to its positives and negatives and what they would like to see as improvements.

Catherine Williams to devise a questionnaire for the people in the village on what they would want from the village hall. (Hopefully this questionnaire could go out at the same time as the next village newsletter.)

David Taylor to establish the area covered by the Village Hall, i.e. the ground to front and to its side.

David Taylor to establish what work on the Hall would meet VAT regulations for claiming back VAT.