

AVHMC - Chairman's Report 2014/15

It is the natural cycle of rural communities that sees an ebbing and flowing of its population and with this corresponding highs and lows of involvement and interest in the activities associated with organisations like the village hall.

Our village has been fortunate to have people who have ability or interest which they use to generate events and create a momentum which draws the community together in social activity and thereby fund raising. Without such people and the support they are given the village hall could not continue.

The past year has, however, seen a reduction in the variety of events on offer from the committee as our number has been depleted and with it some of the talent we had come to rely upon. Whilst those of us who remain are happy to offer a calendar of quiz, pub nights and Fayre day which continue to be successful, I am hopeful the future will see a resurgent interest in the committee and with it new ideas and areas of activity.

Early in 2015 the VHMC began the process of seeking grant assistance to raise funds necessary for the repair and renovation of the hall. Consultation via a questionnaire established a high degree of support for the work from the village and presentation materials outlining the project were exhibited to inform hall users. These details were also leafleted to every home.

Three funders were identified. North Lincolnshire Council community fund, SSE community development fund and WREN community fund. Applications were submitted to each at the end of April.

Each of the funders had similar criteria. Pivotal to the project was the hall's ability to provide a community facility that would offer a greater range of services for community events, increase active citizenship and reduce isolation for local residents. Effecting changes which would improve the energy efficiency of the building and help reduce its carbon footprint was also a target.

The development of a community café was seen to be central to meeting these criteria.

On 29th July SSE confirmed a grant of £13,022.40

On 16th September North Lincolnshire council confirmed a grant of £15,000 , this being the maximum grant available

At the time of writing we are waiting for a response from WREN regarding an application for £8770.76 The total estimated cost of the project as at July 2015 was £41,929 which included a contingency of 10% of the total against any increases/ unforeseen costs. This contingency will be met from Village hall reserves.

The refurbishing and updating of facilities of the hall will comprise:

- External limestone Brickwork: to preserve the external fabric and including repointing to areas where water ingress is causing the internal lime plaster to decay and fall off the interior walls.
- Removal and making safe of a limestone chimney stack
- Plaster repair to internal walls using lime plaster prior to re-decoration
- The introduction of a concrete ramp to the side door for wheelchair access.
- The installation of double glazed door and window units to resolve issues of heating, drought, damp and cold.

- Replacing the current floor material in the kitchen and adjacent café room with non-slip flooring. Including repair of the boards in the doorway between the two rooms.
- Retiling of the kitchen walls to current work top height
- Repair and resurfacing of the main hall pine floor
- Installation of a suspended ceiling, sink and cupboard units and computer desks in the room adjacent to the kitchen to create the community café area. Tiling to wall between units.
- Installation of lightweight café furniture
- Redecoration of the hall in accordance with the proposed schedule including the hall ceiling.
- Installation of High speed broadband. When this becomes available
- Installation of two computers and printer.
- Replacement of the main hall and meeting room curtains
- Installation of a noticeboard and decorative wall hangings in the community café
- Renewal of carpeting to the entrance hall and meeting room
- Replacement of the meeting room ceiling with smaller more energy efficient boards.

As with any project using a number of different contractors establishing a start date and timeline of events is reliant upon variables which are beyond our control.

A start date of Oct/Nov has already proved to be over optimistic. It is now more likely that the external works will begin by mid-November with a steady roll out of other works following the installation of doors and windows at the beginning of December. New Year will see the redecoration of the whole hall buildings and the renovation of the hall floor.

The final aspects of the project, installation of new kitchen units, flooring, purchase of furniture and fittings for the café are dependent on the Wren fund application. If successful these will be completed in Jan 2016

The village and hall users will be kept informed of all schedules and changes as they occur via the internal notice board and the Appleby Facebook page.

The committee will establish via consultation how we may best meet the needs of our community and with the help of volunteers provide a service tailored to the times and dates which encourage its greatest use.

It is the committee's intention to provide the community café free of charge for entry. However community groups wishing to use the room outside of its timetabled openings will be able to do so on an hourly hire basis.

Once complete it is our intention to hold an event to which all members of the village will be invited along with representatives of the funders and other interested parties.

This celebration of our achievement will also signal the committee's continuing in its work to secure the hall for future use by investigating the possibility of further grant assistance towards the replacement of our ageing boilers, further restoration of the brickwork and installation of replacement doors and windows to the extension building.

I would like to conclude by making public my gratitude to the committee for their continued work in the organisation of events and support of other functions within the hall, to Cliff Chase for always putting in far more than is asked and to the residents of Appleby without whose attendance and enthusiasm we would have small purpose.

I would also like to thank the trustees for their continued oversight and sponsorship of the halls future.

And finally, a plea, that anyone with an interest in joining the work of the committee can be sure they will be made most welcome.

Paul Johnson
Chairman