

Re: Village Hall Fund

There appears to be some confusion amongst residents as to the purpose of the Village Hall Fund which it might be helpful to address. When the Village Hall was sold some years ago (before many of us were residents) it was due to the lack of use, condition of the building and nuisance to neighbours. The sale monies were invested in The Village Hall Fund, a scheme overseen by the Charity Commissioners. In the documentation it is made clear that the funds can only be used for the erection and management of a replacement hall or for the interest from the fund to be used for the benefit of all parishioners. There are other alternatives which can also be considered but that would probably require consent from the Charity Commissioners for alteration to the terms of the Fund.

Over the years it has become difficult for the Trustees, who are resident in the parish, to find suitable projects for the Fund to support bearing in mind the requirement for the income to be used for the benefit of all residents. In recent years a completely free Summer Party was laid on and in less financially abundant times the income has contributed modestly to the cost of bands at village functions.

It is felt by the Trustees that the time has now come for difficult decisions to be made as regards the future of the Fund which currently amounts to about £128,000. It would be very helpful if all residents could give an indication of their ideas for the use of a Village Hall if the Fund were to pursue that option (not on its own but in partnership with other organisations). Whatever would be built would have to be quite small bearing in mind the funds available and it would probably not be large enough for functions such as the Spring drinks party or other current parochial parties. Please give this matter some thought and send your ideas to geoffreyfitch@hotmail.co.uk Try to set out what activities you would like to support or if you think the idea of a new hall is not feasible also express your views. Don't forget that the whole sum could not be spent on a building as monies would be needed for management costs, Council Tax etc. The next meeting of the Village Hall Trustees is on Monday July 11th so please try to respond by that date.

Attachment to Parish News – July 2016