

FISKERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk
Michelle Vail

Mobile 07305 818857

Chairman
Cllr Chris Darcel

Tel: 01522 750411

Report on VHRR September 2021

The village hall roof has been leaking for some years and over the winter of 2019 it worsened into a condition where action to repair it needed to be taken. In February 2020 there was a joint meeting held between the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) and the Parish Council (PC) to discuss repair options. At this meeting and based on reports from roofers who had inspected the roof it was voted by 8 to 1 in favour that a new roof should be sought rather than a temporary repair and Cllr Adams was requested to gain more quotes for the work. During the spring of 2020 many roofers looked at the roof and numerous quotes were gained. In the summer of 2020, the PC formally agreed and minuted that they would take ownership of the project to source funding and oversee the selection of a roofer to replace the roof. In the autumn of 2020 Cllr Wall spoke with Community Lincs who provided the PC with a list of potential sources of grant funding to assist with the costs of the project. Some of the grants were only available to the VHMC and some only to the PC, so following discussions at a PC meeting it was agreed that Cllrs Wall and Walker, as they sit on both the VHMC and the PC were best placed to apply for grants. In Sept 2020 applications were raised with all the grant funding sources which were available. 2020 saw the full effect of the COVID-19 global pandemic and many funders were quick to reply saying they were only considering applications to assist with COVID related projects. In the autumn of 2020, the PC set up a committee of 5 councillors to progress the project. All their meetings, discussions and decisions have been minuted and updates on progress have been provided at almost all full council meetings since.

Through 2021 significant progress has been made.

Contractors. A written scope of work document was created and sent to all interested roofers to ensure they were all quoting for like for like work packages. Revised quotes were received and from them a preferred roofer was chosen. A meeting has been held with the chosen roofer who is committed to the work and agreed to order materials up front at his own risk, due to COVID-19 the demand for building materials is far greater than the supply so a 3–4-month delivery lead time is expected. A pre-construction phase plan has been created and is in the process of being sent to the roofer for their agreement.

Funding. The cost of the replacement roof is £43,000+VAT. About a third of this has been secured through grant funding and we still have an application with the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) for the other two thirds. To meet the NLCF requirements the PC has committed to providing £1754 of match funding. If the NLCF application is unsuccessful the PC and VHMC have agreed to provide approximately a third of the costs with the PC's donation being £10,000 taken from the village hall renovation reserve fund and the final third, around £13,000, being funded through a Public Works Board Loan (PWBL). By combining this new loan with one the PC already has and due to current interest rates being significantly lower than when the existing loan was taken out the new loan will not result in an increase in council tax precept.

Next Action. We should receive a decision from the NLCF in early October 2021. If the application is unsuccessful then the application to the PWLB will be completed and submitted. Once a route to full funding is confirmed, either through the NLCF or the PWLB then the roofing contractor will be asked to provide a firm date for the work, which dependant on delivery of materials is hoped to be between December 2021 and February 2022.

Cllr A Walker
Vice Chair FPC
Chair VHRR Committee