

Village Hall Report

Due to Covid regulations and restrictions, the Hall has been closed for over twelve months. However the Hall is facing other issues in addition to the restrictions and consequent loss of income. For several years we have been pursuing an insurance claim for structural issues with limited success. We have had two structural engineers reports carried out which consider that the building is reaching the end of its useful life although the building remains safe to use. A further insurance claim was made in March 2021 for floor heave, this was again turned down on the basis of wear and tear.

In November 2019 we commissioned a feasibility study to look into the cost of improvements or a rebuild. Since then we have attempted to have a discussion with the building owners regarding their intentions for the Hall without any success to date. We have had meetings with the agent for Pitchford Estate which were positive but still ongoing regarding maintenance responsibilities and the lease

If the current Hall is to continue until the end of the current lease, we must undertake some structural repairs prior to any other improvements.

Moving forward:

With the current Covid restrictions due to be lifted on May 17th 2021 we have decided to remain close until at least August. We have received some grants from the local authority which will be used to carry out limited structural repairs although additional funding is likely to be necessary.

Other improvements, heating, decoration, tables, curtains and IT are being costed and will be implemented prior to reopening if funds and grants are available

We will still operate our 200 club which generates £1200 for funds. Previously this was sufficient to cover our insurance and heating costs however our insurance premium for this year alone is £1150.

We would like to ask the Parish Council to engage with us to secure local support, funding and a lease extension, if required, to ensure the hall is available to the next generation.

Thanks

Mike Price