

## **ANNUAL DONATION FROM PARISH COUNCIL**

The Trustees of the village hall and playing field are approaching both Great and Little Bealings Parish Councils to ask if they will consider increasing their annual donation which they make towards the upkeep and maintenance of the village hall and playing field.

The amount has been set at £250 for the village hall and £500 for the playing field since 2011, and since that time our Annual Operating costs have increased, and are currently set at £8267 for the village hall and £3559 for the playing field.

The Village Hall is now 66 years old. Over the past few years, we have replaced the Crittall windows with double glazing to help with more efficient heating of the hall and to reduce our electricity costs. We now need to consider replacing the external doors which are draughty and insecure, and hope to fund this through grants.

In 2022 we replaced the guttering and the external walls were painted. With a building of this age there is constant need for repair and maintenance which we fund from available funds, applying for grants for the bigger projects.

Our car park is used daily by other organisations in the village the upkeep of which is funded by ourselves. A direct approach to these organisations that use the car park and a general request for donations has met with limited success. In 2023 it will again need to be resurfaced with road planings to fill in the pot holes that are now appearing in the surface. When last resurfaced in 2020 the planings cost was £468 which will have increased, these were spread with the help of volunteers and the loan of a driver and a JCB digger from Great Bealings if we need to hire in equipment in this will greatly increase these costs.

The Playing field was refurbished in 2006/2007 and is well used but the upkeep costs are increasing yearly with the repair and maintenance need for the wooden play equipment which is now 15 years old.

We would be grateful if the Parish Council would consider an increase in their donation when setting their budget for 2023/2024.