

APPLICATION TO THE PARISH COUNCILS OF LITTLE BEALINGS AND GREAT BEALINGS FOR A CONTRIBUTION TO THE COSTS OF RUNNING THE ANGELA COBBOLD COMMUNITY HALL IN 2023

Introduction

The Angela Cobbold Community Hall (ACH) is a community resource used by residents of both Great Bealings and Little Bealings for numerous regular events throughout the year: including regular Community lunches, Knit and natter, Friday evening socials, fish and chip evenings, quizzes, wine tasting, opera evenings, film shows, gardening club etc. It is also used for on-off events for the community, such as the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and lectures on topics of interest to people in the community. It also has a reading room that is opened on a regular basis.

The ACH is run by ROPETH, a charitable company established for this purpose, which relies on donations and profits from community events held at the hall, as well as occasional commercial hire income, to cover the costs of running the hall. With the closure of the hall during much of the Covid pandemic in 2021, the income fell considerably and placed a heavy burden on the limited reserves and the hall continued to remain viable through generous donations and loans. Fortunately, through 2022, the financial position has significantly strengthened as the hall has again been brought back into extensive use as we have exited the covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, despite the progress that has been made, and the sound financial footing that has been achieved, the spiralling energy costs in particular continue to place an additional strain on the finances of the hall. These and other costs, as detailed in Annex A, lead to a challenging position with respect to the budget for running of the Angela Cobbold Hall and constrain what can be achieved for the community in the absence of additional financial support from our Parish Councils. Our current budget build for 2023 has a projected shortfall of £500 for which we need to seek additional sources of funding if we are to maintain a full programme of events.

Financial request

The trustees of ROPETH are seeking a small contribution from our local Parish Council's to the running costs of the ACH community hall in 2023.

We hope that the Parish Councils would consider that a financial contribution is appropriate and to build this into their budgets for FY 2023/24.

A financial contribution would be consistent with an objective to maintain and increase the benefits that this important community resource delivers to those living in these parishes. For example, a financial contribution from Parish Councils could enable the hall to be used more extensively than would otherwise be the case in the cold winter months, for example continuing to open the reading room and the popular Friday evening social events, as well as additional community events.

A contribution of **£250** from each of Little and Great Bealings would have a material and positive impact on the benefits that those living in the parishes derive from this valued community resource.

The trustees would be very grateful if the Parish Councils would kindly consider this request and communicate their decisions as soon as possible so that ROPETH can complete its budget build for 2023.

[REDACTED] (Chair, ROPETH)

Annex 1: Budget for the Angela Cobbold community Hall

ROPETH BUDGET				
	2022			2023
	Budget	Actual (to Oct)	Variance	Forecast
Income				
Hall lets	£1,000.00	£1,285.15	£285.15	£1,400.00
Events	£3,000.00	£3,176.71	£176.71	£3,000.00
Donations	£1,200.00	£1,269.77	£69.77	£1,200.00
Gift aid reclaimed	£360.00	£361.90	£1.90	£300.00
TOTAL	£5,560.00	£6,093.53	£533.53	£5,900.00
Expenses				
Insurance	£550.00	£549.03	-£0.97	£550.00
Utilities	£1,000.00	£1,510.79	£510.79	£2,000.00
Licences	£600.00	£271.89	-£328.11	£600.00
Event supplies	£2,000.00	£1,950.88	-£49.12	£2,500.00
Maintenance	£600.00	£664.55	£64.55	£600.00
Admin	£100.00	£78.93	-£21.07	£150.00
Loan repayments (Covid period)	£2,000.00	£1,500.00	-£500.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£6,850.00	£6,526.07	-£323.93	£6,400.00

Annex 2: Illustration of the particular challenge of escalating energy costs

