

REQUEST TO LITTLE BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL 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 local residents 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, Coronation 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 was run as a warm room over the winter (Oct 22 – March 23) using funding from ESC to contribute to the additional costs of heating and providing refreshments on the Wednesdays and Fridays that the warm room was in operation.

The ACH is run by ROPETH, a charitable company established for this purpose, which relies on donations and funds raised from community events held at the hall, as well as occasional commercial hire income, to cover the costs of running the hall. Despite the progress that has been made in achieving a sound financial footing after the impact of the covid-19 pandemic, the financial position remains fragile as the current high energy cost place an additional strain on the finances of the hall. Although the funding from ESC covered the additional heating costs to operate the warm room last winter, the costs for the rest of the year, particularly in the coming winter, as well as other rising costs will present a challenging position with respect to the budget for running of the Angela Cobbold Hall. This will constrain what can be achieved for the community in the absence of additional financial support from our Parish Council.

This request updates the information provided to the Clerks of the Bealings Parish Councils in October 2022 to assist their work in preparing budgets for 2023/4. Great Bealings Parish Council has indicated that it is unable to provide any financial support this year, which makes any contribution that Little Bealings may be able to provide all the more important to support the operation of the ACH community hall.

Financial request

The trustees of ROPETH are seeking a small contribution from the Parish Council to assist with the running costs of the ACH community hall in 2023.

Our revised budget estimate for 2023, which includes the 2023 element of the ESC warm room funding that has now been spent, is set out in the table below. This budget if achieved, would generate a small surplus, but there are significant risks particularly around events income and is predicated on limited opening of the hall in the winter months due to high energy costs.

ROPETH BUDGET FOR 2023			
	2023		
	Budget	19-Apr-23	Variance
Income			
Grants	£1,976.00	£1,976.00	£0.00
Hall lets	£1,600.00	£694.50	-£905.50
Events	£4,000.00	£1,120.51	-£2,879.49
Donations	£2,600.00	£1,734.97	-£865.03
Gift aid	£625.00	£143.69	-£481.31
TOTAL	£10,801.00	£5,669.66	-£5,131.34
Expenses			
Insurance	£583.00	£582.97	-£0.03
Utilities	£3,000.00	£777.09	-£2,222.91
Licences	£600.00	£53.00	-£547.00
Event supplies	£3,000.00	£968.24	-£2,031.76
Maintenance	£2,000.00	£469.70	-£1,530.30
Admin	£200.00	£80.00	-£120.00
Depreciation of assets	£1,150.00	£0.00	-£1,150.00
TOTAL	£10,533.00	£2,931.00	-£6,452.00

A financial contribution would be consistent with an objective to maintain and increase the benefits that this important community resource delivers to residents. For example, a financial contribution could enable the hall to be used more extensively than would otherwise be the case in the coming winter when heating costs become an issue, 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 Little Bealings Parish Council 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 Council would kindly consider this request and look forward to hearing the decision when taken.

Peter Carr (Chair, ROPETH)