

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 20 APRIL 2018

Report of the Heritage Hut / Scroll Committee

At the last Annual Parish Meeting, the Heritage Hut Committee presented its proposals for renovating the Hut, and it received support for these proposals from the meeting that evening.

Tonight we should like to update you on our progress since then.

Firstly we have been successful in obtaining a Grant of £6,000 towards the work on the Hut from the Enabling Committee of the SCDC. We have also received a generous donation from the le Roux Trust of £7,000, also to help with this work. This means that with other fund-raising efforts we have around £13,500 in our dedicated bank account held by the WPC.

Since the last Parish Meeting in 2017, a detailed Structural Survey was carried out (and kindly paid for by the WCLC). This led to the view that it would be better to rebuild the rear section of the Hut completely rather than make do with the existing fabric. This would both improve its appearance and have long term benefits in maintenance costs. Since this will obviously be more expensive we shall be actively pursuing ways of raising the additional finance which could be of the order of say £6,000.

On the screen we show the building as it is at the moment, next is a sketch view of the proposed rebuilding of the back section, and finally a plan of the building showing its proposed layout. This includes upgrading the building to become capable of use by the disabled.

In the back section, which would be separate, secured and with limited access we propose to have storage and easy retrieval of critical and particularly historically significant archives and documents of three village organisations: the WPC, the WCLC and Walberswick Local History Group. Excess documentation would be digitalized, stored or archived, as appropriate, in off-site locations at the discretion of each organisation. There would also be shared office equipment for the business use of the Clerks. And on the other side would be a toilet which is wheelchair accessible.

We propose that the main hall should remain as unchanged as possible with the following amendments-

- a. A place for the permanent display of the Walberswick Scroll in a new and appropriately protective display case.
- b. A table for 10 at which village organisations can hold meetings and where the Clerks can meet with the public by arrangement, and where the History Group archivist can also work and share historical documents with interested members of the public. This will also enable use by organised school groups or others to visit Walberswick to view the scroll and learn of our history. It is also proposed that there would be limited use for temporary exhibitions by local artists and craftspeople, but the Heritage Hut would not be used commercially since the Village Hall caters for that already. Some form of heating will be needed to make these activities possible throughout the year.
- c. Additional free-standing cabinets and bench-seating to provide additional storage.

Finally, we expect to move very soon to get planning permission, to cost the design so that we know how much funding will be needed, and to seek the remaining financing from both WCLC and other possible sources.