

Parish Meeting 13 April 2017

Report by the Walberswick Scroll Committee

As you all know, the Scroll is a valuable and much loved asset to the village. It has been protected over the course of its life, here in Walberwick, by many people - but most importantly by Richard Scott. Single-handedly for many years, he has shown it to the public, in Tony Whittenbury's ingenious case always accompanied by his inimitable and knowledgeable commentary.

Recently Richard has gathered around himself a small committee of John English, Pat Lancaster, Nigel Walpole and me, Bill Ungless. This committee has been ratified by the Walberswick Parish Council.

For around half a century the scroll has lived here, formerly under, and now on the stage of the Village Hall. For almost 50 years it has been kept safe. However every time there is a stage production it has to be moved, when naturally it is put at some risk.

Now, we have a new situation. A few years ago the WPC acquired the Heritage Hut. This meant that last year we were able to show the scroll in the Hut for the first time. It is a particularly good place for it to be shown - hard on the village green and readily on view to visitors. The Scroll Committee came to realise that by improving the existing single story extension at the rear, the Hut would also be an excellent place to store it. Last July we made a proposal for this idea to the WPC who accepted it and asked us to obtain tenders. We did so last November and again the WPC gave its approval and asked us to seek funding to pay for the lowest tender.

We have submitted an application to the SCDC for a grant, and are hopeful that we shall receive some help from them. We have also asked the WCLC for a grant and the discussions about this are ongoing.

The Scroll Committee has always been aware that these improvements to the Heritage Hut would make it an excellent headquarters for the Walberswick Parish Council and a safe store for its records. Our proposals include security measures, insulation, heating, a telephone with internet connection, and importantly a WC. All of these will help to make the Hut fit for any future communal use, such as for the fete and for any other village events and celebrations.

We trust that our proposal will put to good use a village asset, which at the moment stands rather idle, and importantly we do hope that Walberswick is behind us in this venture.