



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

C127

Cabinet 14 September 2011

Recommendations from the Grant Working Party: 6 September 2011 (Sep11/01)

Cabinet Member:
Cllr Robert Everitt

Chairman of the Working Party:
Cllr Sarah Broughton

**1. Rural Initiatives Grant Scheme Application for Project Funding
2011/2012: Brockley Village Hall (Report C109)**

RECOMMENDED:- That

- (1) in principle, a grant of £6,500 be awarded to Brockley Village Hall Management Committee towards the refurbishment of the Village Hall; and***
- (2) the application be represented to the Grant Working Party when the financial arrangements for the scheme have been finalised.***

Brockley Village Hall Management Committee have applied for a grant to refurbish and modernise the village hall. This will incorporate a modest extension, which will be subservient to the existing building. Planning consent was approved by the Borough Council on 9 May 2011 (planning application reference SE/11/0293).

The cost of the project is £118,960 (excluding VAT) and £142,752 (including VAT). The applicant cannot reclaim VAT. Brockley Village Hall Management Committee has £2,000 from their own funds; confirmed match funding of approximately £70,000 from the Village Trust Fund (though this money is yet to be released); £5,000 from Brockley Community Council and £1,000 from Suffolk County Councillor Locality budget. The Committee has applied for, but not yet confirmed, funding of £5,000 from Havebury Housing Partnership and £25,000 from The Prince's Countryside Fund. The applicant is also currently looking to apply to other funders to meet the shortfall. Should there be a shortfall in the required funding, the Village Hall Management Committee will seek donations and loans from within the village to complete the project in one phase, rather than spread the project over two or three phases which it is felt would be more expensive.

The Grant Working Party was concerned that the complicated funding arrangements for this scheme would take a considerable time to resolve, if at all, and considered it appropriate that they review the application when these had been finalised.

2. Bardwell Parish Council: Reallocation of Grant Funding (Report C110)

RECOMMENDED:-

That the balance of £685.50 on Bardwell Parish Council's grant allocation be reallocated towards the replacement of the ceiling tiles at the Tithe Barn.

Bardwell Parish Council applied to the Rural Areas Community Initiatives Fund in October 2010 for £2,374 towards emergency works to protect the Village Hall (Tithe Barn) from further water damage, by installing a protective drain at the side of the hall and a decision in favour of the application was made on 25 October 2010.

The emergency works were completed as planned. However, Bardwell Parish Council's net costs totalled £1,688.50, which leaves a balance of £685.50 of the original grant.

The Bardwell Tithe Barn Management Committee has taken the opportunity to propose other repair work while the hall is out of action. The ceiling tiles are in poor condition and will require replacement sometime in the near future, so it is being proposed to replace them now at a cost of £2,224.