Bembridge Village Hall Restoration Project

Objectives and Timeline

Glynn Brasington - Chairman Village Hall Restoration Committee - August 2026

Situation

- **The Village Hall has several aging problems. The most significant currently is the sub structure of the village hall floor in the main hall. This is a safety issue and if not addressed will cause the village hall to close.**
- Other current issues:
  - Several leaks in the roof and frontage of the hall.
  - The need for improved disabled access at the front of the hall
  - The need to upgrade the heating to future proof energy usage, including better insulation of the windows, using solar panels to reduce electricity costs, assessing the use of a heat pump and replacing aging radiators with underfloor heating. Eliminating the use of Gas.
  - External decorative deterioration.

Management and Ownership of the Hall

- The hall is owned by Bembridge Parish Council (BPC)
- The hall is leased to The Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) which is a registered charity and runs the use of the hall.
  - The VHMC has a 25 year lease.
  - The lease defines responsibilities of each party that can be summarised as follow:
    - The PBC is responsible for the building structure.
    - The VHMC is responsible for internal decoration, maintenance and managing the day to day usage of the hall.

Establishment of Village Hall Restoration Committee

- Due to the extensive nature of restoration work required it was decided to establish a Village Hall Restoration Committee made up of members of the VHMC and the Parish Council.
- The advantages of this are as follows;
    - In order to raise funds for the renovation there are some funders who will provide funds to a Parish council but there are more that will only provide funds to a registered charity.
- Current members of the VHRC:
    - Parish Councillors;
        - Glynn Brasington (Chair of VHRC) Ian Davis (BPC representative to the VHMC) Paul Kenny, Harriet Brabazon.
    - Village Hall Management Committee:
        - John Austen (Secretary VHRC) Elizabeth White, Geoff Green, John Hammond, Sam Fisher.

Objectives of VHRC

- The Village Hall Restoration Committee has two key objectives:
- 1) To manage a project to undertake the necessary fixes and improvements to the hall.
    - This will include specifying the work needed with external professionals and managing the delivery of the necessary improvements to a high standard and timely manor.
- 2) To source funds to pay for the restoration project.
    - This will include:
        - Grant applications
        - Local charitable fund raising
        - Parish council budgeting

Project costs and funding

- Estimated Costs:
  - The overall costs for the project are estimated to be £170,000 the majority of this will be replacement of the village hall floor which will facilitate the installation of underfloor heating but will incure disruption to the stage, needing a new stage to be put in place.
  - The solar panels and energy efficiency improvements are the next expensive items
  - Cost breakdowns of each part of the project will be detailed during the request for tenders to be made in September
- Funding opportunities:
  - The VHRC will aim to obtain as much of the funding as possible from available Grants;
    - The first if the these is an application for English Heritage funds, an expression of Interest will be submitted before September 13th 2026.
      - Other funds under consideration are BIFFA, Wight Aid, National Lottery Awards for all England, ACRA.
    - The establishment of a local fundraising effort to raise money from the hall user community and local population. This starts on September 2nd 2026.
    - The Parish Council will review future budgeting opportunities to contribute to the project.

Project Timelines

- The target is to start and complete the work in 2027.
    - Initial estimates of the time from start of work to completion is 2-3 months.
    - The critical path is as follows:
        - The work can not start until funds are made available, from whichever source. This will depend on the Grant funding process, the Parish council budgeting cycle and the progress of the Fund Raising Group.
        - If the project is commissioned by the Parish Council, a full council approval will be required to proceed. The PC tendering procedure will need to be adhered to.
        - A structural report and schedule of work has been prepared by Joshua Sibley (London Design Centre Ltd.) with each part of the whole project itemised. The next step in this process is to seek interested parties to tender for the whole or part of the project.
            - The first step will be for each vendor to visit the Hall, meet with Josh and relevant members of the VHMC to detail the necessary work, prepare a quote and timeline for submission to the VHMC.
            - This will take place in September / October 2026.