

Community Grant to Brewham Village Hall Restoration Group (Executive Decision)

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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant towards the cost of new tables and chairs for the recently renovated Brewham Village Hall.

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

Brewham Village Hall Restoration Group has applied to the Area East community grants programme for financial assistance to purchase new tables and chairs. The application has been assessed by the Locality Officer who is submitting this report to enable the Area East Committee to make an informed decision about the application.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £3,511 to Brewham Village Hall Restoration Group, the grant to be allocated from the Area East Community Grant programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (Appendix A).

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Brewham Village Hall Restoration Group
Project:	Purchase new tables and chairs
Total project cost:	£7,022
Amount requested from SSDC:	£3,511
Application assessed by:	Terena Isaacs – Locality Officer

Background

Brewham Village Hall is a facility for North and South Brewham and the surrounding local rural community in Area East. It is used all year round by a vibrant community made up of villagers and people from the nearby conurbations, farms and isolated houses.

The Village Hall offers a single, highly flexible space and is the “hub” of the village. Many parishioners who feel the effects of rural isolation benefit from the regular ‘coffee and chat’ with a book and magazine swap. The local Toddler and Mums group meet regularly to support each other and socialise. There is children’s religious club and wildlife lectures for adults and wildlife activities for children, these draw people from outside the parish. Regular exercise classes also take place. The hall is available for hire for children’s parties, workshops and charity fundraising events.

The Brewham Village Hall Restoration Group has just completed full renovation of the hall, which has seen the old asbestos ceiling being removed and replaced, all electrics have been replaced with new wiring and lighting, the main hall has been decorated and the outside of the hall has been repointed. Guttering has been sorted out and all leaks repaired. The grand opening of the hall will be later this month.

Funding for the hall renovations was sourced via Viridor, National Lottery awards for all, Defra fund and local community support. Support from South Somerset District Council was not required for this project.

Parish information

Parish*	Brewham
Parish Population	441
Number of dwellings	200

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The application is for the purchase of replacement table and chairs. The present furniture is very old and well worn. Replacement furniture will benefit all users of the hall and complete the renovation project.

A great deal of care has been taken to improve the look of the village hall for present and future users. The committee have researched and decided buying quality furniture which will benefit future generations.

Local support / evidence of need

'Your Brewham' questionnaires have been completed in recent years. In 2017 a residents survey gave 100% support for the village hall renovation project. The building is a very important central hub for this rural community.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
10 x large rectangular folding tables	669
6 x small rectangular folding tables	330
1 x trolley for 18 tables	325
2 x 40 stacking chairs and tables	5968
Total	7,022

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council *	Secured	290 (5%)
Own Funds	Secured	3,221 (45%)
SDDC	Pending	3,511 (50%)
Total		7,022

*The Parish Council precept is limited and therefore they have been unable to contribute 10%. This has been considered in the scoring process.

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Actual score	Maximum score possible
A Eligibility	Yes	Y/N
B Equalities Impact	4	7
C Need for project	3	5
D Capacity of organisation	13	15
E Financial need	2	7
F Innovation	2	3
Grand total	24	37

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £3,511 is awarded to Brewham Village Hall Restoration Group.

Financial implications

The balance in the Area East Community Grant programme is £14,820. If the recommended grant of £3,511 is awarded, £11,309 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.

Council Plan Implications

Health and Communities - To build healthy, self-reliant, active communities we will:

- Support communities so that they can identify their needs and develop local solutions
- Help people to live well by enabling quality cultural, leisure, play, sport & healthy lifestyle facilities & activities

Area Chapter Implications

Healthy Self-reliant communities

- Support a range of improvements to community buildings.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

The project aims to provide for people across all age and interest groups in the local community.

Background Papers

None

Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes to the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
- Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested.
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the project so that the grant can be released.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a "sinking fund" to support future replacement of the building / facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.

Special conditions