

BRIEFING NOTE FOR PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL
PAUNTLEY VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT PROPOSALS

Main Refurbishment Quote from B & B

The proposal for the toilets is to have just one ladies/accessible toilet and baby change area. For the gents, new fittings and just two urinals to allow better spacing. Removal of some of the internal partitions will allow a storage cupboard to be built here also.

The hall is in need of rewiring, with additional sockets in the main hall and the proposal is also to remove the coin meter. A new consumer unit would then be fitted, as the existing units are in need of tidying up. New internal doors, decorating and sanding/sealing of the main hall floor are also proposed. The original quote for sanding and staining the floor seemed rather expensive so we also have a second and cheaper option, for a lighter sanding of the floor.

The proposals for the exterior include a hatch to be fitted on the kitchen wall and either decking or patio slabs here, to provide an outside seating area to take advantage of the views. A hatch would allow for drinks etc to be served from the kitchen.

AV Upgrade Proposals from Leap Audio

Following the issues with the signal to the projector and the sound quality, Lesley met at the hall recently with Lee from Leap Audio, a local company based in Much Marcle.

The issue of the occasional loss of signal was discussed and he did not feel it was likely to be the cabling that was at fault, but possibly some of the settings on the projector. He made some adjustments while he was there and the recent film evening run by Paul Eastabrook ran without any fault – it was always an intermittent fault and either this was lucky, or the adjustments have remedied it. He did not feel we need a new projector as our current one is a good quality and still being sold. Moving the equipment to the rear of the hall and re-cabling was also discussed, to reduce the length of cabling needed. This would be dependent on the hall being rewired and additional sockets added.

The sound issue is rather more complicated and he says that it is a common issue with village halls, which tend to be large, relatively empty buildings with high ceilings and a lot of hard surfaces which allow the sound to bounce off and echo round. The best option to improve this is to install acoustic panels on the ceiling (many halls have these now), which absorb the sound and prevent the echoes that we currently experience with all events, but which are amplified at film evenings. These are included in the quote. The amp itself is of a good spec and not likely to be at fault, but he proposes rewiring it to get full use of all the features – at present we are not able to balance the speakers as we might like. He suggests we also have two new central speakers, which carry speech, which would be of a higher spec and provide clearer speech. These are of course more expensive than the ones we currently have. The other speakers, which carry background sounds, are fine and do not need replacing.

A new projector was included in the quote, in case we wanted to consider this, but he advises that he feels that this is not really necessary and so it has not been included in the costings.

Solar Panels Proposals from Caplor Energy

Lesley had a long chat with Phil from Caplor Energy in Fownhope - they did her solar panels and were found to be very reliable. They were sent them lots of information and photos.

He did not think that ground source or air source is the best option for buildings like ours, but would recommend solar panels as we have a good south-facing roof area.

Firstly, if we are rewiring (which would be necessary) there are a few things we need to do:

- Ensure there are 3 spares on the consumer unit for the solar panels.
- Have an isolation switch installed. Apparently this is now a requirement for new installations, and would be done by the line provider, WPD (or whatever they call themselves now). There is likely to be a charge of around £300 for this - some people seem to get it for no charge but some have to pay and there doesn't seem to be any consistency on this.
- EDF would want us to have a new meter if they saw the current 'spinning' one, as apparently there is a chance that this would start to go backwards! Apparently if the solar panels are generating electricity this is likely to cause this. Although we might like that, I expect they would want us to have a smart meter and I don't think there is a charge for these.

He has looked at our bills, which are quite small in the scheme of things and we are on a good tariff at the moment, but that will change in the future. Because our daytime usage is not a great deal, solar panels heating during the day would waste the energy if it could not be stored to be used in the evenings, so he would recommend a battery, which obviously pushes the price up, but there is little point in having them without. He thinks a 4/5k array would be sufficient, which is basically a domestic array. More than that would be considered commercial and he would need to apply to WPD. He thinks that should deal with the majority of our usage, and also 'future proof' us too.

There are three levels of VAT apparently for solar. Domestic solar panels are free of VAT but commercial ones attract VAT, as do community ones. However, since we are a registered charity there would be no VAT. Some good news! We need to provide proof of registered charity status.

The quote provided for us to consider would be subject to his coming out and inspecting but he has seen most of what he needs from the photos etc. and feels the structure would be in order.

We haven't been successful in finding any grants yet for this, which is surprising given that we are all being encouraged to switch to greener energy. There are a few possible places to try, following the recent Centre for Sustainable Energy webinar, and Gill Moseley might know if there is anything from GCC that we are not aware of.

New Cooker

Whilst we are proposing that any refurbishment of the kitchen be delayed until a future date, a new and more modern cooker is needed.

13.4.2023

