

AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Our application for a grant to Awards for All for upgrades to the AV equipment and acoustic panels was not successful. There are few other sources of funding for this type of project and we need to decide what to do if we are to have the equipment functioning again for the autumn.

Costs from our preferred supplier, River Audio of Stroud, are for three options as follows:

- Recabling with high quality HDMI extenders that convert the HDMI to Cat 6 by the receiver and then re-convert back to HDMI near the projector **£725 plus VAT**
- Recabling plus 6 new higher spec speakers **£2,073 plus VAT**
- Recabling, 6 new speakers, and a new processor and separate multichannel amplifier that allows for full tonal and volume adjustments to be made to each of the speakers. A new box would be needed as this amp is deeper than the existing one. **£5,808 plus VAT.**

They have also quoted for 66 acoustic panels at a total of **£3,844 plus VAT.**

The total cost for the complete AV package (£5,808) and acoustic panels (£3,844) would be **£9,652 plus VAT (£11,582.40).** Clarification is needed as to whether the parish council can reclaim VAT on this, as the VAT takes the costs over the £10,000 which is frequently the limit for small grant providers.

Our options seem to be:

- Pay for recabling from village hall funds (£725), so that we can hopefully be up and running if not with improved sound, and then trying to find a grant for the remainder of the monies. If we decided to include new speakers then this would be £2,073. Opting for only part of the proposal would be likely to increase labour and some other costs such as recabling the speakers and amp.
- Try Awards for All again, although their reasons for refusal seem a little spurious – they say there is not enough proof that the project is ‘community driven’. We have circulated a survey regarding sound quality at the hall but have only received 34 responses, which may not be enough to show we have acted on their feedback. We can raise this at the Annual Parish Meeting but those who attend are likely to be the ones who have responded to the survey anyway!
- Try to source other grants. These are few and far between. We have identified one at Morrisons Foundation that we will submit an application to. Most other providers are asking for projects targeted to specific groups such as disadvantaged people, children or minority groups.

We need to decide on our course of action soon, as most grants have a long lead in time – Awards for All is currently three months, meaning that any application in late April for example may not be decided until late July.

Lesley Harding

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