

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs
Date:	13 July 2022
Title:	Parish and Town Council Grants 2022/23
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

Contact name: Jo Heath, Assistant Director, CCBS
Lisa Wood, Rural Programme Support Officer

Tel: 07545 735629 **Email:** Jo.heath@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs on the progress of, and changes to, the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund (PTCIF), to include updated budget and approval/ratification of grants.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Recreation, Heritage and Rural Affairs approves the proposed Energy Efficiency grant applications totalling £80,067.45, from the PTCIF as detailed under Section 11 below.

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to provide a financial update on the PTCIF, including alterations to the grant scheme guidance to include energy efficiency projects, increase to the funding limit, grants awarded to date, and seeks approval for six grant applications over £5,000.
4. The budget for 2022/23 for the PTCIF is £327,000. In addition, the Climate Change Programme has contributed £150,000 to the PTCIF grant scheme with the latter required to be spent by the end of March 2023. This equates to a total available budget of £477,000.

5. Seven smaller grants, each under £5,000, have already been awarded by the Director of CCBS' delegated authority, totalling £17,778, as detailed in Section 10.
6. Five larger grant applications, amounting to a total of £80,067.45, and for which this paper seeks approval, are detailed in Section 11. Detailed assessments and recommendations for each application are given in Appendix A-E.

Contextual information

7. The Parish and Town Council Investment Fund provides funding to Parish and Town Councils and community groups to support them with implementing projects that respond to local needs whilst also reducing pressure on County Council services.
8. Hampshire County Council declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019. The Climate Change Programme Team was established to address the challenges faced by our changing climate, including to embed climate resilience and mitigation across key policies and sectors, working with communities across Hampshire. The PTCIF grant scheme guidance allows for Energy Efficiency applications from Parish and Town Councils or community groups for improvements to the energy efficiency of community buildings, where it can be demonstrated that the improvements will contribute to [HCC's climate change targets](#) hence supporting the Climate Change Programme Team achieve their goals.
9. Each Energy Efficiency grant application includes a full business plan to include rationale, costings, quotes, and measurements for their proposed project. This business plan is required to provide adequate information to the Climate Change Programme Team to allow them to evaluate the financial and energy efficiency benefits of the project. If these evaluations are favourable, and demonstrate a contribution to HCC's Climate Emergency targets, then the project can be recommended for approval.

Finance

10. The grants awarded to date are as follows (for information only):

Reference	Applicant	Cost	Project
CG00023811	Lindford Parish Council	£1,640.32	LED lighting
CG00023935	Tadley Town Council	£3,209.00	LED lighting
CG00024237	Bramley Village Hall Trust	£4,019.00	Solar
CG00024218	Hook Parish Council	£3,763.27	LED lighting
CG00024239	Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall	£2,590.80	Preliminary report
CG00025278	Martin Club	£606.00	Pre-project evaluation – to provide Energy Performance Certificate
CG00025443	Itchen Abbas and Avington village Hall	£1950.00	Pre-project evaluation – to provide Energy Performance Certificate
	Total awarded	£17,778.39	
	Grant amount remaining (from £150,000 Climate change contribution)	£132,221.71	

11. Approval is sought for the following grants:

Reference	Applicant	Cost	Project
CG00025253	A - Bramshaw Village Hall	£6,079.34	Heating
CG00025277	B - Newton Valence Social Centre	£30,000.00	Insulation/heating/windows/lights
CG00025324	C - Hambledon Village Hall	£12,177.00	Solar
CG00025441	D - Wield Village Hall	£21,901.11	Insulation and Solar, double glazing
CG00025333	E - Crondall Village Hall	£9,910.00	Solar
	Total awarded	£80,067.45	
	Grant amount remaining (from £150,000 Climate contribution)	£52,154.16	

12. Each of these larger grants have been reviewed by the Climate Change Programme Team against the grant scheme criteria detailed in Section 8, and approval is only sought based upon their recommendation to proceed. Detailed assessments for each of the above applications, including specific comments from the Climate Change Programme Team, for each application can be found in Appendix A-E.

Performance

13. The Climate Change Programme Team has allocated £150,000 towards these projects, to be committed in 2022/23. Grant awards to date, including those for which approval is sought, amount to £97,846. This leaves £52,154 available from this proportion of the funding. With over 40 further applications in the pipeline, it is anticipated that this proportion of funding will be allocated this financial year.
14. It is likely that the potential applications in the pipeline will require more than the £52,154 remaining. The original £327,000 PTCIF funding remains available to Energy Efficiency project funding, where applicants demonstrate adherence to scheme criteria.
15. This paper clarifies £97,846 of grant funds awarded to date to 12 projects for a range of measures which are forecast to achieve an annual carbon reduction of over 23tCO₂e and annual financial savings of over £17,000 for the successful applicants. Project success will be measured against these forecast figures.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
EMPR Report - Update on the Parish and Town Council Investment Fund and Associated Rural Issues	25.04.2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
HCC Climate Change Initiatives	13 July 2021

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment: No negative impacts are anticipated.

Appendix A – Bramshaw Village Hall

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Bramshaw Village Hall Trust (BVHT)
Project title:	Bramshaw Village Hall – Radiators and Heating
Project location:	Bramshaw
Application reference:	CG00025253
Total project cost:	£7,679.34
Amount requested:	£6,079.34
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	£1,600.00
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	£1,600.00
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£6,079.34

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>The village hall's heating system has been inspected by Bob Roddy of Amber Heating Ltd, (who kindly donated his time to make a report on the cause of the inefficiency and high cost of heating system at the village hall).</p> <p>He reported that the Dimplex 40kw heat pump was running uneconomically and beyond its design specifications.</p> <p>Changing the radiators to low water, low temperature units would solve this problem by reducing the demand on hot water volume, hot water temperature and allowing the heat pump to work economically within its design specifications and without requiring supplementary heat from the immersion coil.</p> <p>We have been advised to install Dimplex heat pump unit is sound and reliable and that we should replace the radiators with suitable low water volume and low temperature units.</p>
HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)

Lisa Wood - Partnering with Rural Programme Team:

Following a professional energy review, Bramshaw Village Hall Trust have demonstrated the need for the installation of new radiators which are compatible with their Dimplex 40kw heat pump. They have provided a comprehensive application providing evidence of their projected costs and demonstrating a potential cost saving of £5,600 annually against a project cost of £6,079.34.

Their submission does not include any financial match funding, but they have promised labour assistance to the value of £1600 which has reduced their projected costs. The potential cost savings demonstrate that the project will have paid for itself in just over 1 year, and demonstrate a substantial annual cost saving

Christopher Dear – Climate Change Programme Team.

Bramshaw Village Hall Trust (BVHT) have submitted a considered and comprehensive application that aligns to the objectives of HCC to improve the energy-efficiency of community buildings and mitigate the impact of climate change. BVHT are forecasting a financial saving of £5,600 per annum and a carbon saving of 5tCO₂e which is significant for a single project and represents good value for money, on the assumption the consumption figures pre- and post-project are accurate.

On this basis, this application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a well-planned, targeted energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above I would recommend the organisation is awarded £6,079.34.

Appendix B – Newton Valence Social Centre

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Newton Valence Parish Council
Project title:	Newton Valence Social Centre Energy Project
Project location:	Newton Valence
Application reference:	CG00025277
Total project cost:	£30,495.00
Amount requested:	£30,000.00
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	£495.00
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	£495.00
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£30,000.00

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary

This energy efficiency application from Newton Valence Parish Council forms part of a much wider refurbishment of the Parish's only available community building. They have committed to provide the remaining £148,000 cost of the works, and have currently raised £63,000.

The funding requested here, which seek to address the building's energy efficiency, can proceed immediately without the remaining monies being in place to complete the project. As further funds are raised, through other grants and local fundraising, the project will be completed.

The energy efficiency aspects of the proposed refurbishment follow the detailed recommendations contained in their Energy Efficiency Report:

- The project energy efficiency measures include the replacement of the oil tank, boiler and heating/hot water system and associated radiators with a more efficient electric heating system and electric radiators.

- The hall has no insulation currently and the project will fit Celotex panels and plasterboard in the roof space, and the interior walls in the main hall area. Cavity wall insulation will be introduced in the front external walls.
- The existing lighting be replaced with LEDs throughout the building and the old electrical wiring and sockets will be renewed to enhance safety throughout the building.
- The existing aluminium single glazed windows will be replaced with double glazed windows.

HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)

Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:

Following a professional energy review by Sheila Barry, Newton Valence Parish Council have provided a comprehensive application providing evidence of their energy efficiency improvements as follows:

3.00 Conclusions and recommendations

3.01 Comparison of the current EPC versus the revised EPC

Having modelled Newton Valence Village Hall in the current condition within the SBEM software and then with the added proposed improvements, we can see from the table below that the EPC rating has increased from a rating of G 199 to C 65, thus improving the rating by 134 points. The CO₂ emissions have reduced from 164.62 kg per m² per year and the primary energy use has reduced from 751.07 kWh/m² per year to 287.38 kWh/m² per year.

Measure	Current EPC	Revised EPC	Change
Energy efficiency rating	199 (band G)	65 (band C)	134
Building emission rate (kgCO ₂ /m ² per year)	164.62	48.55	116.07
Primary energy use (kWh/ m ² per year)	751.07	287.38	463.69

Their submission includes minimal financial match funding, but they are committed to funding the additional works to improve their community building to the value of £148,000.

The energy savings from their report indicate an annual saving of £4,500 (paying for the project within 7 years), and an EPC rating improvement from band G to band C, which would be a substantial improvement.

Christopher Dear – Climate Change Programme Team.

Approval is provided for this application in support of HCC's climate change objectives, in particular to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The commissioned energy report highlights the particularly poor energy efficiency of the building, in addition to the potential benefits associated with delivering the project proposals.

The proposals align with decarbonisation priorities and workstreams being

delivered across Hampshire, particularly in relation to heating, insulation and lighting. The forecast benefits of the proposal – both in terms of financial and energy savings – are favourable.

The project projects a potential carbon saving of almost 7tCO₂e. In addition, the project would deliver an annual financial saving of approx.. £4,500. For a single project, this is significant and represents a good investment for HCC in its efforts to decarbonise Hampshire.

On this basis, this application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a well-planned, comprehensive energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above I would recommend the organisation is awarded £30,000.

Appendix C – Hambledon Village Hall

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Hambledon Village Hall Village Hall Committee
Project title:	Hambledon Village Hall -Solar panel installation
Project location:	Hambledon
Application reference:	CG00025324
Total project cost:	£24,354.00
Amount requested:	£12,177.00
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	£12,177.00
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	£12,177.00
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£12,177.00

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>Hambledon Village Hall Committee has a long-term programme to continue their commitment to improve energy usage and efficiency. The first phase was the installation of an ASHP heating system and LED lighting (completed 2016-2019).</p> <p>They now plan to implement phase two, the installation of solar panels to a large, sloping, south facing roof.</p> <p>A third future implementation phase will look to install battery packs and electric vehicle charging points.</p>
HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)
<p>Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:</p> <p>Hambledon village hall have provided all the information necessary to demonstrate a reduction in annual energy use of 6115 kWhrs = £970.45</p>

annually. This is likely to be further improved following the later installation of suitable battery packs.

They have committed 50% match funding to this stage of the project and their previously implemented energy efficiency measures have already resulted in a favourable level B EPC rating. This second stage will enable them to be as energy efficient as they can possibly be.

A previous confirmed planning agreement has lapsed, and a new permission is expected to be confirmed. A response to their Planning Permission request is expected by 12th June 2022. Successful planning permission is a condition of their grant award.

Christopher Dear – Climate Change Programme Team.

This project is aligned to HCC climate change objectives to be carbon neutral by 2050. Hambledon Village Hall have demonstrated their commitment to the climate emergency by undertaking measures to improve the energy-efficiency of their community building and continue to do so with plans in place for phase 3. Internal analysis projects an annual carbon saving of 1.43tCO₂e in addition to the projected annual financial saving for this phase of the project.

On this basis, this application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a positive continuation of their well-planned energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above, and subject to the confirmation of planning permission, I would recommend the organisation is awarded £12,177.

Appendix D – Wield Village Hall

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Wield Village Hall
Project title:	Wield Energy Efficiency Initiative 2022
Project location:	Wield
Application reference:	CG00025441
Total project cost:	£21,901.11
Amount requested:	£21,901.11
<i>Match funding – cash:</i>	
<i>Match funding - volunteer hours:</i>	
<i>Match funding - in-kind:</i>	
Match funding – total value	
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£21,901.11

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>The Wield Village Hall is the only community building in Wield with no alternative projects requiring energy efficiency measures. The Hall provides the only venue and supporting multiple activities and groups. It aids the advancement of Rural Health and Welfare; supports the EHDC Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2024, and Hampshire County Councils Public Health Strategy.</p> <p>To both maintain this usage and generate an increase in use during Winter, without substantially increasing energy costs, we wish to make it as energy efficient as possible. This is part of a wider refurbishment project (total cost £65,000), and we have also already financed the replacement of all our lighting with LED (cost approx. £500).</p> <p>Following a recent EPC report, the proposed works have been recommended to improve the energy efficiency of the building. The project is expected to increase the EPC rating from band D to band C or better.</p> <p>This Initiative will:</p>

- Whilst maintaining the character of this building, replace all the wooden framed single glazed windows with similar styled PVCU double glazed units. Replace 3 exit doors (One disable access, one fire exit door and the side entrance door) with thermal efficient substitutes in a similar style and improved safety performance.
- Install Roof Top Solar Panels to reduce energy costs and subsidise our energy bills with the excess energy generated.
- Improve insulation within the main hall.

HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)

Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:

Wield Village Hall have provided a comprehensive application covering insulation, windows and solar for their community building, each delivering demonstrable energy efficiency savings, and costing a total of £21,901.11. They do not have the facility to claim VAT, so their costs are inclusive of any taxes.

Whilst there is no match funding for this element of the project, the energy efficiency works are part of a larger rejuvenation project costing circa £65,000, funded by village hall committee funds, a contribution from the parish council, and CIL monies from EHDC. They have also already funded the replacement of all lighting with LED (approx. £500).

I have visited the site to understand fully the current funding restrictions within which they operate, and their future aspirations. They currently run the hall largely in Summer months to avoid having high heating bills, as their annual budget doesn't allow for extended use during winter.

Their project demonstrates a potential cost saving of £1606 (£315 from solar + £1290 from LPG) annually (based on current use), although they anticipate being able to make much better use of the hall post project, hence raising more funds and making the facility more sustainable long-term. In addition, they will be able to subsidise their energy costs further by exporting any unused electricity back to the power grid, rather than use batteries, hence adding to the availability of green energy in Hampshire.

The EPC energy efficiency use/savings figures provided are higher, as they are based on estimated figures assuming a higher activity rate during winter. This forecast indicates a higher possible energy saving.

Subject to signoff by the Climate Change Programme Manager, this project would be recommended for approval.

Christopher Dear – Climate Change Programme Team.

Wield Village Hall have demonstrated their commitment to tackling the climate emergency by already undertaking energy-efficiency works and seeking to

further improve the efficiency of the village hall with the works proposed in this application.

The proposals align with the priorities of Hampshire County Council, specifically in respect of the 2050 carbon neutral target for Hampshire. The proposals deliver some of the key recommendations as detailed in the energy performance certificate.

It is forecast that the LPG-based investment could save £421 per annum and deliver a carbon saving of 0.82tCO₂e per annum.

The electricity-based investment is forecast to save £245 per annum and deliver a carbon saving of 0.17tCO₂e per annum (excluding any excess electricity going back to the grid).

Therefore, offering a combined saving of £666 and a combined annual carbon saving of 0.99tCO₂e.

On this basis, this application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a well-planned, comprehensive energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above I would recommend the organisation is awarded £21,901.11.

Appendix E – Crondall Village Hall

Parish and Town Council Investment Fund 2022/23

Funding assessment form

Organisation name:	Crondall Village Hall
Project title:	Crondall Village Hall Solar Panel Project
Project location:	Crondall
Application reference:	CG00025333
Total project cost:	£9,910.00
Amount requested:	£9,910.00
Match funding – cash:	
Match funding - volunteer hours:	
Match funding - in-kind:	
Match funding – total value	
AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:	£9,910.00

Eligibility checklist	Yes/No
Is the applicant a Parish or Town Council, or a Local Community Group, directly benefitting the local community, with clear management structure within its constitution or suitable governance/terms of reference?	Yes
Does the project/activity deliver against the scheme priorities (to build community resilience and ease pressure on HCC Services)?	Yes
Does the application have support from the local community and Parish/Town Council?	Yes

Project summary
<p>Crondall Village Hall have already funded long term improvements to their community building, and following consultation have elected to request funding for a 24 solar panel system connected to a battery system.</p> <p>They anticipate that this final stage will allow the hall to be sustainable in the long term, and allow them to continue to provide cost effective services to their community in the face of rising energy costs, whilst also committing to being as energy efficient as they can.</p>
HCC – Officer feedback/comments (relevant Services)
<p>Lisa Wood - Rural Programme Team:</p> <p>Crondall village hall have provided all the information necessary to demonstrate a reduction in annual energy use of 7829 kWhrs = £1722.38 annually.</p> <p>Whilst there is no match funding for this stage of the project, they have already invested £76,000 in building improvements resulting in a favourable level B EPC rating. This final stage will enable them to be as energy efficient as they can possibly be.</p>

Christopher Dear – Climate Change Programme Team.

Crondall Village Hall have demonstrated their commitment to the climate emergency and Hampshire target to be carbon neutral by 2050.

Crondall have already taken significant steps to enhancing the energy efficiency of their building before exploring renewable energy generation, in line with the Councils 'save it before generating it' approach.

The project offers favourable returns for the applicant – the project is forecast to generate annual savings of circa £1,700 and 1.83tCO₂e.

On this basis, this application is supported.

Officer comments and recommendation

Lisa Wood – Rural Affairs Programme Support Officer

This project's Business Case presents a positive continuation of their well-planned energy efficiency programme, focussed on delivering against HCC's Climate Emergency targets. The supporting statement from Chris Dear mirrors this evaluation.

For the reasons stated above, and subject to the confirmation of planning permission, I would recommend the organisation is awarded £9,910.