

Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council

Full Council 12/09/2024

Mortimer Hobby Hall

Agenda item 24/066 8 To consider the request for funding and resolve the response and any funding to be granted.

BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on 22 August 2024, under agenda item 24/058 2. it was agreed for a grant of £1,500 be awarded to Mortimer Hobby Hall and Repair Café as seed funding to assist the project team with the cost of the professional fees related with progressing their bid to take over the Garth Hall Trust.

The following update and request for additional funding was received via email on 04/09/2024:

To: Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council ('SMPC')

From: Mortimer Hobby Hall ('MHH') project team

4 September 2024

Update and request for funding

Following the presentation by Mike Gomm at a recent SMPC meeting the MHH project team have prepared this note to update Councillors on the progress since that update. We are pleased to report that (finally) we received written confirmation from the Royal British Legion ('RBL') on 9 August that our proposal had been accepted and that we are their preferred candidate to pass over the Trusteeship of Garth Hall to MHH once various aspect had been completed including:

- Formation of the MHH CIO through registration with the Charity Commission and registration of the CIO with HMRC as a charity for tax purposes;*
- Carrying out appropriate building surveys to identify required works and preparing to carry out such works;*
- Following fundraising, confirmation of offers of funds for initial repairs and fit out works;*
- Confirmation of funds for ongoing running costs for a reasonable period after transfer and detailed plan for fundraising for ongoing running costs.*

We have already commenced work on all of these areas.

We are very grateful to SMPC for agreeing at their August meeting to provide £1,500 seed funding to enable the project team to start moving forward on these points above.

However the project is going to require a substantial amount of capital investment to bring Garth Hall back to a usable condition before it can be used for the purposes outlined in the proposal.

*The RBL have provided us with a figure their surveyors have estimated to do the works of £130,000 which was prepared 3-4 years ago. We have **NOT** had sight of the details of the*

breakdown of this amount and are currently instructing a surveyor to undertake a review on our behalf. With building price inflation of around 70% in that period this brings the likely costs up to c£220,000.

There are various sources of funding which we will apply for but would like to think that SMPC would be able to contribute towards this amount out of the funds that they hold. The team would also be grateful for the SMPC support in identifying any sources of funding that they might be aware of and any introductions they could make to prospective funders.

We appreciate that before any final amount is given to the MHH project the Parish Council would need to see our proposals and costings which will be made available when the team have the information.

We look forward to hearing from SMPC as to the level of funding that you might be able to provide to bring this valued building back into community use in the future.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration and support.

MHH project team

Gareth Price

Jo Wyllie

Mike Gomm

Andrew Tanner

Clerk 06/09/2024