

# LITTLE BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

## DONATIONS REPORT - 13 MAY 2024

### INTRODUCTION

The Council has powers under the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to make donations to voluntary organisations.

The Council set its budget for 2024/25 at its meeting on 6 November 2024:

<https://littlebealings.onesuffolk.net/parish-council/budgets/>

At year end, 31 March 2024, the Donations budget for 2023/24 was underspent by £690. Donations comprised:

Bealings Village Hall and John Belstead Playing Field	£1000
Fynn Lark News	£300
ROPETH	£250
SAVID	£50
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£20
Total	£1060

The Council traditionally makes annual donations to Bealings Village Hall, John Belstead Playing Field and the Fynn Lark News at its Annual Meeting in May. It made a first donation to Ropeth in 2023/24.

Other donations are made during the year, if approved by the Council. The Council has a policy of supporting charities which have confirmed that they have been active in the parish during the year.

### DONATIONS FOR 2024/25

#### Bealings Village Hall Trust

The Council has agreed to contribute £5,000 of CIL funding, in addition to the annual donation, as a Contributing Third Party to a grant application for the roof and doors project. This payment may be due in June if the grant application is successful.

#### ROPETH

The Council has received this request for funding, together with quotations for fire safety work which are excluded from publication for reason of commercial sensitivity:

I am writing to you on behalf of the trustees of the Angela Cobbold Hall to enquire if funding could be available from the parish council CIL funds or other funds held by the Parish Council to pay for essential upgrades to the fire safety measures in the hall.

Since the hall was opened, we have made good progress with our programme of modernisation and improvements, financed largely by successful fundraising and generous grants from various organisations. This has transformed the hall into a popular gathering place for various community events and activities. However, ensuring the safety and well-being of all visitors to the hall is of paramount importance to us, and recent assessments have identified that improvements are needed to bring the fire alarm system and emergency lighting up to modern standards and to enable the hall to be used to its full potential.

Outlined below are the proposed upgrades, for which I also attach two confidential quotations from local companies:

1. **Fire Alarm System**: We propose installing a comprehensive fire detection and alarm system equipped with advanced sensors, including smoke detectors and heat sensors. Upgrading the fire alarm system will improve early detection of any potential fire hazards, allowing for prompt evacuation and minimizing the risk of injury or damage to property.

2. **Emergency Lighting**: Adequate emergency lighting is essential to guide occupants safely to exits during emergencies, such as power outages or fire incidents, and our existing system requires modernisation to meet current safety standards effectively. Upgrading with energy-efficient LED lights that offer reliable performance will ensure good visibility in emergency situations.

By undertaking these upgrades, we are not only meeting the latest regulations and best practice, but aiming to provide visitors with greater peace of mind when attending events or activities.

Therefore, we respectfully request financial assistance from the parish council CIL fund or any other appropriate money the Parish Council may have available to support these proposed upgrades. A substantial contribution from the Parish Council should enable the work to be initiated promptly, to enable the full range of activities to take place in the hall, compliant with regulatory requirements and would demonstrate the commitment to prioritising the safety and well-being of our community.

We are available to provide any additional information or clarification you may require regarding our funding request. Thank you for considering our proposal, and we look forward to the possibility of your assistance to enhance the safety of the Angela Cobbold Hall

## **FYNN LARK NEWS**

The Council has not received any request for an increase.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Council resolves:

- to make such annual donations for 2024/25 to support facilities/services in the parish as it considers appropriate in accordance with budget provision and its statutory powers.
- whether to retain or amend its current policy for making other donations during the year.