

Grant to Merriott Village Hall – Refurbishment of Kitchen (Executive Decision)

Strategic Director: Kirsty Larkins, Director of Service Deliver
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Lead Officer: Nathan Turnbull, Locality Officer
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Purpose of the Report

Councillors are asked to consider the awarding of a grant of £5,477 towards Refurbishment of the Village Hall Kitchen

Public Interest

Awarding grants is a key way that SSDC supports and helps to deliver community projects sponsored by Parishes and voluntary community organisations in the towns and villages across the district.

Merriott Village Hall has applied to the Area West community grants programme for financial assistance with the costs of £5,477. The Locality Officer is submitting this report to enable the Area West Committee to make an informed decision about the application and has assessed the application.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Councillors award a grant of £5,477, the grant to be allocated from the Area West capital programme and subject to SSDC standard conditions for community grants (appendix A)

Application Details

Name of applicant:	Merriott Village Hall
Project:	Refurbishment of Village kitchen
Total project cost:	£22,428.12
Amount requested from SSDC:	£5,477.00
% amount requested	24.4%
Application assessed by:	Nathan Turnbull

Community Grants Assessment Score

The table below shows the grant scoring for this application. Applications must meet the minimum score of 22 to be considered for SSDC funding under Community Grants policies.

Category	Max Score available	Officer assessment score
A Supports Council Plan/Area Chapter	1	1
B Supports Equalities & Diversity	1	1
C Supports Environment Strategy	3	1
D Need for Project	10	9
E Capacity of Organisation	15	13
F Financial need	7	4
Total	37	29

Background

Merriott Village Hall is a lovely, spacious and characterful village hall with a large hall that has a production stage, PA system, hearing loop, an extra meeting room, kitchen and ample parking to the rear with designated disabled parking. There is very good access for wheelchair users at both front and rear doors, together with disabled toilets.

The main hall can accommodate up to 220 people and is light and airy. There is also the Blake Room, which is perfect for meetings and smaller groups and can be used as a waiting room, bar, cloak room or changing room amongst other things. It is an excellent venue for wedding receptions, parties, wakes and other large functions. Regular groups include; Badminton, Short Mat Bowls, Bridge Club, Baby Sensory Classes, Pilates, Zumba, Yoga and Dance Clubs.

In 2019 the hall was awarded Hallmark standards I, II and III by the Community Council for Somerset.

Parish information

Parish*	Merriott
Parish Population	1,979
No. of dwellings	900

*Taken from the 2011 census profile

The project

The Project Is to refurbish the Hall Kitchen by installing a new range of Cabinets, new sinks, new fridge and commercial dishwasher and a new water heater. New ovens and



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cooker top will be installed together with an extraction fan, the kitchen, main hall and Blake room will be re painted.

Local support / evidence of need

Just prior to the pandemic, the regular Hall users were asked to give their views on a range of Hall improvements, the top responses were solar panels and batteries and kitchen refurbishment. The solar project was seen as a priority as this would lower the costs of running the hall and maintain hire costs without an increase for a longer period, this project has now been completed.

The second priority is the kitchen refurbishment, the current kitchen is tired, with cabinets decaying and aged equipment for meal preparation, this in time would be a health and safety issue and this would cause the kitchen to be condemned and users would be unable to use it, this in time would mean a loss in income.

The Parish Council is fully supportive of this project.

Project costs

Project costs	Cost £
Materials,ovens,cabinets and worktops	£7926.08
Fitting of units and equipment	£1885.00
Electrical alterations and connections	£1757.04
Underfloor repair	£1500.00
Vinyl flooring	£1000,00
Commercial dishwasher	£3120.00
Water Heater	£600.00
Making good walls and tiling	£1500.00
Decoration	£3140.00
Total	£22428.12

Funding plan

Funding source	Secured or pending	Amount £
Parish/Town Council	Secured	£100.00
Own Funds	Secured	£7040.12
Awards For All	Pending	£9811.00
SSDC Community Grant	Pending	£5477.00
Total		£22428.12

Conclusion and Recommendation

It is recommended that a grant of £5,477 is awarded

Financial Implications

If both previous grants to East Chinnock Parish Council and Ilminster Sports club play areas are awarded, the balance in the Area West Capital programme will be £37,444.08. If the recommended grant of £5,477 is awarded, £31,967.08 will remain.

Grants are awarded subject to all other funding being secured before the commencement of the project and are on a % basis of the full project costs. Payment of the grant cannot exceed the grant award and is proportionally reduced if full project costs are under budget.

Council Plan Implications

Healthy, self-reliant Communities – Priority 2

To enable healthy communities which are cohesive, sustainable and enjoy a high quality of life

- Work with partners to keep our residents safe and feel safe in their homes and communities
- Collaborate with local partners to reduce the impact of social isolation and create a feeling of community
- Work with local partners to support people in improving their physical and mental health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities
- Enable quality and inclusive cultural, leisure and sport activities
- Proactively support residents facing hardship and tackle the causes of economic & social exclusion, poverty and low social mobility

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None

Equality and Diversity Implications

<i>An Equality Impact Relevance Check Form has been completed in respect of the Proposal?</i>	Yes
<i>The Impact Relevance Check indicated that a full EIA was required?</i>	Yes
<i>If an EIA was not required please attach the Impact Relevance Check Form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of its findings in the comments box below.</i>	
<i>If an EIA was required please attach the completed EIA form as an Appendix to this report and provide a brief summary of the result of your Equality Impact Assessment in the comment box below.</i>	
Additional Comments	
The project aims to provide for people across all age and interest groups in the local community.	

Background Papers None



Appendix A

Standard conditions applying to all SSDC Community Grants

The applicant agrees to: -

- Notify SSDC if there is a material change to the information provided in the application.
- Start the project within six months of the grant offer and notify SSDC of any changes To the project or start date as soon as possible.
- Confirm that all other funding sources have been secured before starting the project, if these were not already in place at the time of the application.
Acknowledge SSDC assistance towards the project in any relevant publicity about the project (e.g. leaflets, posters, websites, and promotional materials) and on any Permanent acknowledgement (e.g. plaques, signs etc.).
- Work in conjunction with SSDC officers to monitor and share the success of the Project and the benefits to the community resulting from SSDC's contribution to the Project.
- Provide a project update and/or supply before and after photos if requested
- Supply receipted invoices or receipts which provide evidence of the **full** cost of the Project so that the grant can be released.
- Complete an evaluation survey when requested after the completion of the project.
- Note that they cannot apply for another community grant for the same project within a 3 year period of this award.

Standard conditions applying to buildings, facilities and equipment

- Establish and maintain a “sinking fund” to support future replacement of the building / Facility / equipment as grant funding is only awarded on a one-off basis.
- Use the SSDC Building Control Service when buildings regulations are required.
- Incorporate disabled access and provide an access statement where relevant.