

For Launton Annual Parish Meeting April 2022

Parish Hall Improvement Project / Friends of Launton Parish Hall

Update and final report for the period May 2021 to April 2022 from the Parish Hall Improvement Project (PHIP) soon (we hope) to be a Registered Charity as Friends of Launton Parish Hall (FoLPH).

As the slow movement to the agreement and then signature of documents to enable the Parish Council to take on a long-term lease on the Parish Hall moved on, it became clear to the management group of PHIP that we needed a more stable set up than our current Unincorporated Association, especially as we would be engaged in some major fundraising for the Hall. We decided that we should register as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The final agreements on the lease of the Hall (an Agreement to Lease, then a full lease once the necessary work has been done to bring the Hall's energy rating up to standard) were signed in August 2021. Stage one completed, but now the really serious work has to start.

Earlier this year we submitted all the documents for registration to the Charities Commission, and were asked to clarify some of our application, and we resubmitted the application on 11 April. To date we have not had a response, but the five founding trustees listed in the documents are convinced that this is the right way to take PHIP forward, and we are confident that we will be successful in securing charitable status, and so change its name to Friends of Launton Parish Hall (or FoLPH).

The initial trustees are, in alphabetical order, Robert Cornford, Celia Evans, Cathy Procopiou, Simon Turner, and Jaqueline Webber.

PHIP/FoLPH has been active over the past year in running small community events to raise funds for its work, and to keep the project in people's minds. Of course, the constraints of Covid-19 restrictions over the past year have affected much of this work, but we now have over £22,000 in our funds to help in the development of plans for the Hall. We have also been engaged with the Working Group set up by the Parish Council to advise them on carrying out plans for the Hall.

The Friends will have two main aims – to work on fundraising for the current and future improvement of the Hall, and to contribute to the involvement of the community in plans that are carried through. We still have as an aim to make sure that “Something is done for the Parish Hall”. But we are equally clear that this “Something” has to be carried out by the Parish Council as the lease-holder for the Hall.

We have had a regular programme of consultation with the community, through open in-person and virtual meetings, and through regular reports through social media and through *Launton Lines*.

Our next event is the May Day Fair in 10 days' time, which will aim to provide some fun for the village, raise some money for the Hall project, and offer the opportunity for those attending to review the current outline plans developed for the initial planning application. We then have a programme of other events through to the autumn of 2022.

Robert Cornford: Communications Officer PHIP/FoLPH