



Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall
Reg. Charity No. 1003803

NEWS RELEASE

14 March 2016

Work starts on major improvements at Topcliffe & Asenby village hall

Work on a major refurbishment of the 55-year-old Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall got underway this week.

Local building contractor Paul Thompson Ltd., based in Ainderby Steeple near Northallerton, successfully competed against three other firms to win the £100,000 contract.

The main building work includes a substantial extension to accommodate new toilet facilities, extra space for community activities, new storage areas, massively improved access for people with disabilities, plus improved entrance lobby and much-needed enhancements to the external appearance of the building.

And once this work is completed, a range of additional smaller jobs, including new lighting, refurbishment of the excellent dance floor, redecoration and installation on an audio visual system, will get underway to further improve the facilities.

Members of the village hall committee have raised a massive £125,000 to pay for the refurbishment.

Andrew Eckersley, Chairman of the Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee said: "Following fifteen months of hard work fundraising we are excited to see a start being made on these much needed improvements.

"Our village hall is getting a fresh look and much improved facilities that will meet the needs of the local community and of which everyone can be rightly proud.

"The hall, which is shared between the neighbouring villages of Topcliffe and Asenby, is the main centre of community activity. The work getting underway this week will ensure we have a much improved facility that locals and other users of our village hall, can enjoy and appreciate.

"Without the support of our hard working committee and a range of very generous grant-giving bodies, we wouldn't be able to undertake this work, so I am very grateful to them all.

“The main contract will take around twelve weeks to complete and then we will have to tackle the smaller jobs in the main hall. We aim to keep the hall open for business as much as possible, but inevitably there will be occasions when the builder will best be able to operate without people milling about. We’ll be making sure that all users are fully informed of our plans.”

Brick in the Hall

In addition to the grants awarded by charitable organisations, local people who are totally committed to the plans for the hall have dug deep to help raise funds, particularly via a Brick in the Hall scheme, but also by running events and raffles.

Contributions so far have topped £3,000. There is still an opportunity to purchase foundation stones at £25, full bricks at £10 or half-bricks at £5, but the scheme will be closed on 1 May 2016.

When the improvements are completed, a large commemorative plaque featuring the names of supporters— individuals and organisations – who have contributed, will be erected in the hall.

END

Issued by Doug Allan, Co-opted Member, Topcliffe & Asenby Village Hall Committee
Tel: 07785 223707. Andrew Eckersley can be contacted on 07966 619016

Photo attached: Contractor Keith Thompson (wearing the hat) with village hall committee members Judith Lowe, Peter Lowe (left) and Doug Allan.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Note 1

The two largest grants have kindly been given by:

- ? WREN’s FCC Community Action Fund (£49,860)
- ? Yorventure £37,020)

Additional grants are from:

- ? The Armed Forces Covenant Fund (£8,100)
- ? The Garfield Weston Foundation (£7,500))
- ? Harrogate Council (£2,994)
- ? The Bernard Sunley Foundation (£2,500)
- ? Two Ridings Community Foundation (£1,000)
- ? The Sir George Martin Trust (£1,000)
- ? Barchester Healthcare Foundation (£1,000)
- ? The Skinners Company – Lady Neville Charity (£650)
- ? North Yorkshire County Council Locality Fund – Cllrs Atkinson and Baker (£600).

Note 2

In August 2015, work was completed on a £16,000 kitchen refurbishment which saw the replacement of all furnishings and equipment to ensure that the hall has modern catering suitable for a wide range of activities. That work was paid for with grants from The Big Lottery: Awards for All Fund (£10,000), Hambleton Council (£5,000 and Stokesley-based Jack Brunton Charitable Trust (£1,000).