



Grant Evaluation

- The Parish Council likes to hear how community groups have used the money awarded to them
- As the money awarded is public money, we also need to make sure that the money has been spent appropriately and as agreed

Name of Organisation	Holme Village Community Centre
Amount of award	£ 5,000
Purpose for which the grant was awarded (Maximum 20 words)	To cover most of the cost for the installation of a disabled toilet (and the only toilet) on the first floor of our building

The Story of Your Project

- ***Tell us what you did with the money awarded to you (Maximum 500 words)***
- ***Attach a few photos***

The Parish Council have shown an active interest in our conversion of a long disused building into a village community centre to be proud of. As you will be aware the work on the renovation of the building has progressed well and we opened the ground floor of the building in September 2024. Whilst the work we had undertaken allowed the opening of ground floor rooms, much work still needed to be done on the first floor to complete the renovation. The work required upstairs included work at roof and ceiling level, the tanking of walls, re-plastering, re-decorating and new flooring. A conservative estimate for the costs of these works was £85,000 and this included the cost of a disabled toilet facility on the first floor but didn't include the cost of a stair-lift to give disabled access to the main hall upstairs.

We were delighted when in September 2024 the Parish Council further supported the project with a £5,000 grant to provide monies for the installation of the disabled first floor toilet. Parish Councillors who visited at this time might remember that the toilet was to be sited in a corner of the upstairs area in a space which at that stage had no internal walls, plumbing or electrics.

We have made what we would consider good if sometimes frustratingly slow progress with the project since. The Parish Council's funding enabled us to quickly get the plumbing and electrical facilities in place for the toilets. At that stage though we needed to address wider issues on the first floor relating to the roof, ceilings and external wall tanking before we could start on the internal walls of the toilet facility and this caused delay to the Parish Council project because we had then to raise further funds

to allow us to progress.

Gradually though things started to move forward more quickly. Funds were raised which allowed all the ceiling, roof and tanking to be completed and then the internal walls for the toilet were installed. The porcelain for the toilets was ordered but this could not be installed until the plastering of walls was undertaken. It was not going to be cost effective to plaster the toilet walls and then have to get the plasterers back later to do the rest of the first floor walls, so we worked on raising the funds for the complete plastering works (about £18,276). Happily, this funding was secured, and the plastering work was completed in Spring 2026 and the toilet porcelain could be connected along with the necessary emergency help alerts.

The money provided by the Parish Council has been completely spent and we are very grateful of the support they have provided, both in financial terms and in terms of encouragement and interest. Whilst the funding was quickly committed and spent the completion of the toilet area took longer than we might have hoped because of the need to raise further funding for more substantial first floor works, but we are pleased now to report the project is complete and there is now an excellent toilet facility on the first floor which will, we are sure, prove both necessary and invaluable!

What you achieved

What were the benefits of your project?
(Maximum 500 words)

The ground floor of the community centre was completed and opened in September 2024. New toilets, including a disabled facility, were incorporated and access to these was at the back of one of the two rooms available in the building on the ground floor. These are lovely rooms for small groups to use but going forward larger community events would take place on the first floor once renovation of this area was complete. In terms of access this created two sorts of issues. For the able bodied those on the first floor would be able to go down the stairs to the toilets but if there were different groups downstairs, their sessions would be interrupted by those using the toilets. The second access issue pertained to those with physical disabilities, or who were somewhat infirm, who might struggle to get up the stairs anyway, but if they did and then needed the toilet would have to go downstairs and then back up again. The plan for the first floor therefore included building in a toilet where none had previously existed, and installing a chair lift on the stairs.

The Parish Council grant helped us see a way forward for incorporating a disabled toilet unit on the first floor. Whilst working on this we raised funding for the chair-lift on the stairs, in part through a grant fund and in part to a very generous private donation.

The benefits of the first floor are very obvious – those upstairs have a toilet closer to their activity room which benefits all the users, but the benefit to those with disabilities/infirmities are greater still in avoiding the need to go up and down the stairs (stair-lift or not) and facing the embarrassment of interrupting any sessions taking place downstairs.

Who benefited from the project?
(Maximum 200 words)

The first floor of the centre will open for the first time in October so it will be after that date that members of the community will be using the new facility. In short, all users of the first floor community space will benefit from the installation of the toilet in having access to the toilet without having to go downstairs, and as it is a disabled facility it makes our space and our activities much more accessible to all.

How many people benefited? (Maximum 200 words)	As stated above, the first floor of the centre will open for the first time in October so it will be after that date that members of the community will be using the new facility. Activities will commence in the first floor area thereafter. It is difficult to know with any certainty how many users will then take advantage of using the community centre. We developed a business model which identifies our planned activities and estimates of the number of users and we are modelling around a number of 155 users per week in the first year. It will be a case of building up our programme of activities, not least because we have to still raise some funding to equip and resource the first floor facility and some expensive AV equipment will need to be installed so that music and performance can take place as well as film shows and talks/presentations. However, we feel that we can build activity up in year one of the project to this sort of user level. Thereafter we anticipate increasing use of the centre in years two and beyond.
Was the project inclusive? How were marginalised groups (elderly, disabled, young people etc) able to participate?	Absolutely. The whole idea of incorporating a first floor toilet for the disabled was to help make our centre more convenient and user friendly for the disabled and elderly, and at the same time for all users.
Reflecting on climate change, did the project address any aspects of the climate emergency? How?	Throughout our work on developing the village's new community centre, we have been conscious of climate change issues and this has helped steer our decisions about lighting, heating, wall and roof insulation etc. However, we still feel that our main impact on climate change as an organization will be in terms of a programme of education and awareness raising through talks and films, as well as environmental education activities for children. The installation of the new disabled toilet cannot directly help with the climate change agenda, but the availability will encourage attendance on a more inclusive basis and encourage wider participation in our programme of activities.
Did you achieve what you were trying to do? (Maximum 200 words)	Yes, completely. The project to install the toilet was at times frustratingly slow, simply because we had to raise other funds and complete other work first. However, the toilet is now complete and fully functioning! We are proud that our new community centre will have such a facility and that the toilet looks great (as much as any toilet can have aesthetic quality!) Sincere thanks to the Parish Council

Finance and Expenditure

We ask groups to retain their receipts and invoices, and to keep a record of what they've spent for auditing purposes

	Grant awarded	£
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Date	Description of expenditure (use another sheet if necessary)	Amount
Oct 24	Plumbing and electrical works	£ 1,450
	Tanking membrane installation, installing partition walls, and plastering work	£ 18,276
		£
	Please note plumbing and electrical works was exclusively for the toilet area, whilst the extra partition walls and plastering was covered by the remaining £3,550 of the Parish Council's grant of £5,000 and this was part of the larger £18,276 payment listed above Please note that the Parish Council grant was spent in its entirety on the toilet facility and that the Parish Council will have met virtually the full cost of the installation.	£
	Total expenditure	£ 19,726
	Amount of grant remaining (if any)	£ 0

Any amount of the award unspent may have to be returned to the Parish Council

Person completing this form		Date	July 2026
Position in organisation	Volunteer		

Send the completed application form, together with all supporting documentation, preferably in PDF format to: deputyclerk@holmevalleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can send the paperwork to: Holme Valley Parish Council, The Civic, Huddersfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 3AS.

Have you considered inviting a Member of the Parish Council to come and see your project and how your grant money has been spent? Why not give the Parish Council a ring and arrange a visit 01484 687460?