



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)	Our grant application was to cover most of the cost of new flooring for 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.

A lot of hard work went into raising funding and this was helped by the Parish Council's grant for the installation of a disabled toilet on the first floor. A combination of some more grant applications, some donations and monies from fund-raising events helped us get closer to fulfilling our ambitions.

We were then delighted to hear that the Parish Council has awarded us with a further £5,000 grant to help with most of the costs for the new flooring on the first floor of the building. As plastering and painting work was completed, we were ready to install the new flooring. This has now been done and the result is tremendous. The previous flooring was unsafe, but now we have a flooring surface which looks tremendous and is very safe with no unevenness or trip hazards.

The majority of the work on the building is now complete and we will be opening the whole building for community use following our AGM on October 6th at 7.30 pm. The Trust was formed in 2017 and since that time they have raised, in one way or another, just short of £200,000 and then overseen the transformation of the building to prepare for opening fully for the community.

There is still much to be done. We need to set up the first floor with furniture and the high-technology projection and sound facilities that is needed to support events. However, excellent progress has been made and will continue to be made.

We are extremely grateful to the Parish Council for their support and interest in our project

It

What you achieved

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

Holme Village Community Centre will be a facility for not just the people of the village but everyone in the wider Holme Valley area. It will be a bookable space, operating on a not-for-profit basis. **We believe our project will:**

'Bring people together & build strong relationships in and across communities.'

Our village is based in a rural area on the edge of the Peak District National Park. Dotted around the village are a number of small hamlets. Issues of social and rural isolation are major considerations, and our project will create a centre that will bring people together and help address those issues of isolation. The centre will be a bookable space but will also offer a programme of talks, art events and craft workshops. It will provide access to activities which stimulate interest and learning, but also provide social opportunities for mixing which have been proven health and wellbeing benefits. Bringing people together will help people to get to know others and through this encourage new friendships, as well as helping the community to understand, and respond to, the needs of individuals.

A partnership project with local schools based in areas of social deprivation, will enable the centre to provide a base for such schools to visit to undertake activities based in the countryside. This will help town-based children explore our rural setting on the edge of the National Park, developing their health and well-being and encouraging a love and appreciation of the countryside at an early age, with the resultant health benefits. The project will enable the mixing of children across very different communities. The centre will offer out of school activities opportunities and environmentally focussed projects to help children

better understand the environment.

Physical health will be improved by the operation of yoga, keep fit and dance classes. The Health Clinic based in Holmfirth will make use of the village hall thus bringing health services and advice closer to the community through regular health clinic drop-ins.

‘Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities.’

The building we plan to open as the village hall community centre, has not been used and had fallen into a state of decay. It was already unfit for any use and was in an unsafe condition. The project will return the building to use but it will become a facility for use of all of the community and not a private club in the way it was previously used. Some older members of the community remember the building fondly and there is much goodwill within the community for the work that the trust are undertaking to open the building back up.

The village school has no space that is big enough for performance and this means children and their families miss-out, but the community centre will provide a space big enough for the school to use and for parents and families to enjoy watching.

‘Enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage’

First and foremost, for people to reach their potential, they need strong mental health and emotional well-being. Activities within the centre will enable people to come together and this will help them overcome issues of social and rural isolation. The attractive surroundings are the main reason why people choose to live or visit here, and the position of the new Community Centre will provide a great base for activities which promote and support the natural environment. The village school is tiny and provides no large space for workshops or craft activities. The Community Centre is only a few yards from the school and will provide a base for activities above and beyond the normal classroom activity. It is planned that the environment will be central to these planned activities. For adults and children, the Community Centre will provide a great base for walking, learning and craft activities which use the beautiful environment of the centre and the village, as a stimulus and encourage everyone to learn and better understand the natural world around them.

There are many local people who work in arts and crafts but have no base from which to show their work or lead craft workshops. The new community centre will provide that base and this will help support local artists, but also provide opportunities for members of the community to learn and develop new skills and interests.

The new flooring is really the final stage in getting the building ready for community use and provides us with a finish that is both safe and looks tremendous.

Who benefited from the project? (Maximum 200 words)	The first floor of the building will open to the community in October and thereafter all users of the community centre will benefit from our project. The community centre will be used for a wide variety of activities which will be of benefit and interest to children, and adults of all ages. Whilst the village community will of course benefit hugely, the centre will be welcoming to all in the wider community too. Activities will include arts and crafts, music and theatre, education, talks and presentations. The centre will also provide health services.
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?	The new flooring will benefit all users. The previous flooring was unsafe and would be of particular danger to the elderly or to those with infirmities or disabilities. This project coupled with the incorporation of a stair lift and disabled toilet on the first floor have made all activities taking place on the first floor accessible to all
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 flooring cannot directly help with the climate change agenda, but the excellent surface 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 flooring has given the appearance of the building a great final touch and has readied us for the opening of the whole building for community use.

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	£ 5,000
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Date	Description of expenditure (use another sheet if necessary)	Amount
	Flooring materials and fitting	£ 5,960
		£
	Parish Council grant contributing £5,000 towards cost of flooring with £960 coming from Holme Village Community Centre funds	£
		£
	Total expenditure	£ 5,960
	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?