

<b>Agenda item no.</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	Community Hub
<b>Author</b>	Councillor Betty McBride
<b>Report to</b>	Burwash Parish Council
<b>Meeting date</b>	12 March 2019

## Background

*The 2019 Rolling Plan includes the establishment of a Community Hub. Groups have shown interest in using the Parish Rooms for more local meetings and “drop-in” sessions. Council recently resolved to improve the Parish Office as a working environment for the Clerk and as a contact point for the public. The last meeting of Council agreed to start wider consultations on the Community Hub concept, and the idea was explored at a recent meeting of parish councillors with Internet Café volunteers.*

*In February, it was resolved that a small group of parish councillors should meet to discuss what needs to be done to scope out and plan a Community Hub consultation. Here are the recommendations from the meeting:*

## Moving Forward

The Parish Council should move forward now with a local consultation exercise. The consultation will seek to establish:

- The need for a community hub. What would people like to see? Who would use it? Is there a role for partnerships – say with the patient group at Fairfield Surgery or charities such as Age UK?
- What’s the scope for this project? Should we refurbish and reconfigure the existing parish rooms – or apply for a bigger grant and try for a new building on the site.
- Should we develop (and fund) a community hub in partnership with another local venue, in order to offer complementary facilities at each.

## Timescale

The recommendation is that we start the process now, allowing 12 weeks for the consultation.

12 March 13 – 25 March 2019	<p>Council meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek meetings with chair persons of the Village Hall, Swan Meadow Pavilion and Burwash Common Pavilion to discuss the project and garner their views</li> <li>• Invite local groups to canvas their members’ views at forthcoming meetings</li> <li>• Write pieces for the Website, parish magazines and community Facebook page on the project and consultation process, advising people to post comments via email to the clerk or in writing via the Parish Council red box outside the Internet Café.</li> </ul>
25 March – 3 May 2019	<p>This is the period of electoral purdah – local people will have time to consider the proposal, and post their views or questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore grants and funding opportunities</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet any interested potential users &amp; local groups.</li> <li>• Follow up pieces on the Website, community Facebook page and parish magazines.</li> </ul>
23 May w/b 27 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation at the Annual Assembly, and consultation opportunity</li> <li>• Option for mail drop questionnaire.</li> </ul>
11 June	Publish results of consultation and recommendation to Burwash Parish Council

## Working Group

An interim working group of three or four councillors will prepare a one-pager on the Community Hub proposal, for use on the website, community face book pages and parish magazines. They will set up initial meetings with the other local venues this month, and explore grant and funding options in April. It may be necessary to set up a new group after the election.

## To Resolve

The Parish Council is asked to agree the above timetable and provision for an interim working group.