

**Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – St Thomas’s Church, Butterton (Ref: 14/15003/HBG)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Planning Committee approves a grant of £1,013 for the repair of the vestry ceiling and removal of dry rot at St Thomas’s Church, Butterton.**

**Purpose of report**

To consider an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the repair of dry rot and the vestry roof at the Church which is a Grade II\* Listed Building.

An application has been received from St Thomas’s Butterton Parochial Church Council for a grant to help with the cost of unexpected work which has arisen during the present works. The Church was recently awarded its third grant from the Fund in March 2014 for £5,000 towards the cost for repair to high level stone work with some replacement, re-roofing of the south transept, chancel and north transept, lime mortar repair and French drain installation to solve water penetration problems. The total cost of this work was over £170,000 and is almost complete.

The ceiling was opened up to investigate crack movement and this revealed a concealed dry rot outbreak within the ceiling structure. Specification for the additional work has been drawn up by conservation architects overseeing the current scheme of repairs. The total cost of this work is £5,065. The Church has received funding in the past from the Historic Building Grant Fund. It was allocated £8,000 and £2,000 respectively in 2006 and 2007 for stonework repairs and dealing with water penetration. The Church is a Grade II\* Listed Building within the Butterton Conservation Area and as such is one of the most important historic buildings in the Borough. Fortunately the dry rot has been discovered before it has done serious damage to the internal timbers and masonry and it is important help to preserve the church and its future and the current request is a relatively modest amount.

The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee.

**Financial Implications**

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with approximately £20,000 in the Fund.