

Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund

Alsagers Bank War Memorial (Ref: 16/17001/HBG)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the following grant is approved:-

- 1. £196 for the repair of the War Memorial, Alsagers Bank, subject to the appropriate standard conditions**

Purpose of report

To enable members to consider this application for financial assistance.

This project is to repair and repoint the First World War sandstone monument. The monument requires repair of the concrete base to the two rear corners and defective mortar needs raking out and replacing. Two competitive quotations have been received by Audley Parish Council who have taken on this task.

The total cost of the work is estimated at £3,914 including VAT. As the monument is neither a Listed Building, nor within a Conservation Area, nor on the Register of Locally Important Buildings and Structures, it is only eligible, under the terms of the Grant scheme, for 5% towards the cost of the repairs as a non-designated heritage asset. The Parish Council has been successful in receiving an offer of a grant from the War Memorials Trust of 75% towards the cost of this work before VAT. Members will be aware that there is currently a particular national focus on the restoration of First World War Memorials in view of the centenary of the war and the project is considered to be worthy of support, notwithstanding that this is a 'non-designated' heritage asset.

The Conservation Advisory Working Party has considered this request and recommends to the Planning Committee that this grant is approved but is concerned about possible further movement (of the structure) and wants to ensure that the proposed grant work is not abortive if the movement is ongoing and further stabilisation is required. It recommends that the Conservation Officer liaises with the applicant and contractor to ensure that this is explored during the process.

Financial Implications

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with £34,000 in the Fund allowing for commitments.