

**Application for Financial Assistance (Historic Buildings Grants) from the Conservation and Heritage Fund – Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Chesterton, (Ref: 13/14006/HBG)**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Planning Committee approves a grant of £10,000 for roof repairs, replacement and stabilisation of stone capping, new gutters, stone dressing and re-pointing at Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Chesterton, subject to the appropriate standard conditions.**

**Purpose of report**

To consider an application for financial assistance towards the cost of the restoration of the roof of this Church which is a vulnerable Grade II Listed Building.

**Introduction**

The Church has been trying to raise the funding and get agreement for these repairs for many years. The Church quinquennial (5 yearly) report over 10 years ago stressed the importance of getting the roof work undertaken. It is a positive step forward that the Parochial Church Council are now in a position to begin the work. This grant application involves repairs to the roof, re-bedding of the ridge tiles and flashings. The stone cappings require replacement and stabilisation in some places. Other works include new gutters and rainwater goods, stone dressing and re-pointing, redecoration of woodwork, and work to lancet windows. Work has been tendered by a conservation accredited architect who has provided the specification and who will oversee the work.

The cost of the work plus £10,000 recommended contingency, which may not be required, including VAT is £80,128.34 of which all is eligible work. As the structure is a Listed Building, the work is eligible for a grant of 20% of the cost or up to a maximum of £10,000 – a figure which applies in this case. The Church community has managed to raise the rest of the funds required for the work. The contractor is standing by to begin on site early September.

**Financial Implications**

There is sufficient funding to meet this grant application with approximately £55,000 in the Fund, which allows for commitments.

**Conclusions**

This Church is vulnerable not least due to the decreasing congregation, lack of an incumbent as well as the physical effects of the problems with the roof. However it does have a dedicated and concerned church warden. The work required is urgently necessary and should be carried out as soon as possible. The views of the Conservation Advisory Working Party will be reported to the Planning Committee.