

Rendham Village Hall Chairman's Report to the Parish Council March 2025

As reported previously, the potential subsidence to the village hall wall adjacent to the road has now been assessed as a valid insurance claim and I am now progressing this with the insurers. The first step was determined to be a drain inspection via a camera to ascertain if there is any form of collapse. On attending, the inspectors were unable to undertake the task due to water backing up from the river to the septic tank and then to the manhole nearest the hall. This has been a normal occurrence after rain and has been an ongoing concern over the years but has been managed.

For the purposes of progressing the investigation of the subsidence, the septic tank has been emptied again and another inspection arranged.

Following on from this, I would like to raise the issue of looking to improve the discharge of effluent from the village hall over the long term. This is an entirely separate issue from the subsidence claim above.

Environmental regulations demand that effluent from a septic tank must not be discharged untreated into a waterway. Therefore, technically the village hall is in breach of those legal requirements as the tank discharges into the river. In practice, it is most unlikely that considering the volume of use of the hall any discharge from the septic tank would be toxic. The septic tank is generally filled by rainwater.

However, it is perhaps time to revisit the method of effluent disposal from the hall to ensure compliance with the more recent environmental regulations. I have made tentative enquiry with Binders and sought advice on potential solutions. Clearly any development work will be an expensive process and involve excavation of the car park and realignment of drains. It will inevitably lead to the potential loss of car parking spaces.

Should it be determined to progress towards upgrading the effluent disposal system, I would like to advise the Parish Council of the RVHMC intentions and to ascertain that we will have the relevant permissions to go ahead with this as it does perhaps fall outside of the normal Management Committee remit of maintenance. Therefore, I ask that this report is interpreted as seeking agreement /authority to begin the process on the understanding that there will be the consequences of disruption by excavation of the car park, permanent loss of perhaps 1 or 2 parking spaces and the need for fundraising and seeking grant funding. All steps proposed will be discussed and documented at RVHMC meetings.

This is the start of a long process and is subject to agreement by the Parish Council. I will provide further updates as progress is made.

Denis Moore

Chairman Rendham Village Hall Management Committee