

June 2024 Update: Reading Room Memorial Hall, Parish Office

The working group invited ex councillors Reed and Delafield, to meet at the RR MH PO. Initially David Hutchings was selected as lead for the working group. David then asked Dave R and Karen D if they are happy to be part of the working group, both have agreed.

We should draft a letter to Porter Dobson accepting the RR MH PO back from the “trustees” along with the money in the account. We feel that we can do this now that we have the absolute freehold claim form submitted. This will also include asking if the building is currently insured and if not will add to the WSM PC insurance.

The working group will also task the Clerk to investigate the progress of the absolute freehold title and approximate time scale. With the ownership in question and the RR MM PO as a war memorial. The following information from the war memorials trust can be used:

The law and war memorials If a formal transfer of ownership at any point in the war memorial's history cannot be established, then the War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act of 1923 and subsequent amendments enables local councils to carry out work to war memorials within their area whether they officially 'own' them or not. [120.pdf](#) (warmemorials.org)

Once accepted back from the “trustees”, we could use some of the funds they have to give the interior paint needs refreshing and test the electrics. RE also said he might be willing to give a sum of money to use for decorating etc. We could use the RR MH PO for future Council meetings in the short-term future. Once we have a clearer knowledge of the absolute freehold claim, we can then make further plans to updating the building to further uses. This will also address the lack of toilet facilities at the church.

The Working Group