

Tansley Community Hall, now owned by Tansley Parish Council!

Tansley Community Hall was built in 1887 by local benefactors for the residents of Tansley, it was originally transferred to 'the Parish Council' in 1906 for use as a public office and meeting room.

The Parish Council was abolished in 1924, and the building transferred to the Matlock Urban District Council's ownership.

The District Council has leased the building to Trustees of the Community Hall on behalf of Tansley Youth Club since 1975.

In 2012 a suggestion was made by the Chairman of the Community Hall that the Parish Council take over the hall. Tansley Parish Council made a request to the District Council asking them to transfer the property back to the Parish.

Tansley Parish Council's claim to the asset had no legal basis in law, and the District Council were not prepared to dispose of the property.

The District Council were prepared to offer the Parish Council a full repairing lease for 25 years for the sum of £1 per annum. Because of its history it was felt that a lease was not a satisfactory option, the Hall being a community asset which should be in the ownership of the Parish. The draft lease was never signed.

The Parish Council requested that a number of surveys be undertaken at the District Council's expense prior to the new lease being signed. Accordingly asbestos, energy and building surveys were undertaken, the Parish Council requested a more detailed survey of the roof in July 2014.

Finally in May 2015 Tansley Parish Council notified Derbyshire Dales legal team, that they, and the Community Hall Management Committee had been working with Rural Action Derbyshire, with view to requesting that a Community Asset Transfer for the Hall be considered by the District Council. Joe Woods, Chair the Community Hall, prepared a business plan, which outlined the benefits of a transfer, whilst Sarah Bradley produced a record of the accounts.

At a meeting of the Governance and Resources Committee on Thursday evening, our three district councillors, Cllr Jacquie Stevens, Cllr. Steve Flitter (a member of the Community Hall Committee) and Cllr. Deborah Botham all spoke in favour of the Asset Transfer, as did to Cllr. Albert Catt and Cllr. Gary Purdy we thank them for their support. Thanks also to the Chief Executive Mrs Bunton, for ensuring relevant structural surveys were done.

The meeting agreed that the property, valued at £150,000, will be transferred freehold to the Parish Council for the sum of £1. It will be protected and insured under the Parish Council public liability insurance, but will continue to be managed by the present Community Hall Committee, who hope to seek charity status.

Tansley Parish Council and the Community Hall Management Committee would like to thank Derbyshire Dales District Council for 'transferring a building of considerable value' to the parish – the building is in reasonably good shape for its age, and we are very proud of it – and it now belongs to us all!

Tansley Parish Council