

Wigmore Group Parish Council

Report from the Clerk on the Community Centre April 2026.

- The flat roof to the rear of the building is deteriorating faster than expected in part due to a very wet January.
- One ceiling has been damaged and will also need replacing.
- The Centre has applied for a Lottery Grant to cover the costs of roof repairs – estimated at approx. £13k. Whether this has been successful, will not be known until at least June.
- If it is NOT successful, other grants could be applied for, but if repairs are not carried out this summer it is likely rooms hired out will need to be closed, reducing income, and potentially leading to the closure of the Centre.
- An alternative option - the Parish Council may arrange a Public Works Loan, to be paid back over several years. Consultation and public support are required.
- Herefordshire Association of Local Councils advises taking a loan higher than the quoted amount. Example based on £17k over 5 years is below. Initial payment, then half yearly payments :

1,998.50	Initial Payment	
1,957.31		
1,916.13	3,873.44	Year 1
1,874.94		
1,833.75	3,708.70	Year 2
1,792.57		
1,751.38	3,543.95	Year 3
1,710.20		
1,669.01	3,379.20	Year 4
1,627.82		
1,586.64	3,214.46	Year 5
£19,718.25	Total	

Borrowing over a ten-year period may be more manageable but obviously incurs more interest. Whether it would be prudent to raise the figure from £17k to £20k should be considered.

Comments from residents reading this document would be welcomed.

Maggie Brown, Clerk

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6 April 2026