**The Boat House Solar Project Update and approval for expenditure**

A local, highly recommend structural engineer visited the Boat House earlier this year. A visual inspection of the roof indicates that it will be able to safely take the weight of the ballast support solution suggested to secure the Solar Panels in place. The structural engineer is unable to provide us with the written opinion that we require in the absence of the construction plans for the building. Most of the building was constructed by our District Council (FHDC) who despite intensive searching of their records have been unable to locate the construction plans. This is not surprising as we understand the construction dates to the 1960’s. Our Clerk has undertaken a search of Parish records and looked at all the planning application information for the block also without success.

In the absence of the construction plans our structural engineer has recommended that we have a construction survey undertaken on the roof for both the FHDC portion and the portion presently owned by UK Power Networks that we intend to purchase.

The survey will report on the condition of the concrete roof, the thickness of the slab and the thickness of the metal reinforcement that should be built into the roof. A small area of the reinforcement will be subject to investigation to check its condition.

Assuming that the report is satisfactory it will both confirm that the roof can take the weight of the ballast support solution and that the roof is in good order. The latter is particularly important to us as UK Power Networks will hold us responsible for any damage to their equipment once they have sold their part of the building to us and they become our tenants. Once we have the structural report confirming that it is all safe with the roof, we will need to engage with our insurers about UK Power Networks requirements that will apply once they have sold their part of the building to us.

The construction surveyors have requested that they be provided with a safe working area on the roof. Initial enquiries were made to provide a scaffolding solution but the cost of this was more than £1,800. Working with Harmers an alternative solution has been approved by the construction surveyors which will cost us a maximum of £350. Harmers will provide a scaffold tower and interlocking metal fencing around the roof area for free. The £350 is the labour cost to deliver, install and remove the equipment.

We have a provisional date booked for the survey of 31st March. The safety equipment will be onsite and installed by 10am with the construction surveyors on site shortly thereafter. We are hoping that all will be completed and removed by mid-afternoon same day.

The costs that require approval are:

Safety/Access equipment £350.00

Roof construction survey £895.00

Total £1,245.00

It is recommended that these costs be applied for now against the following item Code:

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| 119 | PWLB Solar Loan Repayments |

You may recall that on completion of Project Solar that all costs incurred less the £4k FHDC Grant funding will be drawn from our PWLB investment monies and a formal repayment programme then put in place to replace the PWLB monies.

The £4k FHDC Grant funding must be drawn down by 30th September or it will be lost.

Simon Horton

23rd March 2025