

**REPORT TO THE WALBERSWICK PARISH COUNCIL
BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE WALBERSWICK SCROLL**

JULY 2016

This report covers two subjects.

Firstly, the Walberswick Scroll, which is a series of watercolours painted by J Doman Turner, around 1930, of every house in The Street from west to east down to the harbour, and back up again. These individual pictures have been set in a case and mounted on a scroll 120 feet long which is operated by a handle to show the entire journey.

Secondly, the Heritage Hut which stands on the Village Green. Originally built as a Congregational Church, probably in the 1880's, it has since been used at various times for the Village School, a Working Man's Club, the St John's Ambulance, and as a Heritage Centre. Although unused at the present time, it has played a key role in the history of Walberswick.

Importantly both of the above are owned by the Walberswick Parish Council.

THE SCROLL

Many years ago the WPC asked Richard Scott to be the Keeper of the Scroll and to show it to the village from time to time. As Richard is less available than in earlier years, he asked John English to help with the presentations, and for Pat Lancaster and Bill Ungless to assist in arranging these. This small committee, with Richard in the Chair, has been considering the Scroll's long term future. At the moment it is being stored on the stage of the Village Hall, and has been for many years. This has kept it safe and, while there, it is covered by the Hall's general insurance to the nominal sum of £2,500. However, when stage productions take place, it has to be moved and temporarily stored elsewhere. Apart from being an inconvenience, during these moves the Scroll is clearly rendered less safe.

As a beautiful and rich record of Walberswick, the Scroll is unique and irreplaceable. Since no insurance can cover the irreplaceable, the Committee considers that the best course of action would be to provide it with a permanent home, to be stored and shown, which is safe and environmentally acceptable. Further that the level of future insurance cover should be sufficiently high to pay for repairing any possible damage to it which might occur. Over the years of presenting it, a strong impression has been gained from Villagers that they would like the Scroll to remain in Walberswick. When showing the Scroll for the first time this year within the Heritage Hut, the Committee and Visitors alike felt that this is an ideal place both for showing it and for storing it.

HERITAGE HUT

At the moment, the Heritage Hut is not sufficiently secure and is not environmentally suitable to be a repository for a valuable asset such as the Scroll, particularly in the winter. The main space of the Hut is very attractive and cannot feasibly be altered without detracting from its Victorian character. However the flat-roofed area at the rear is a much more recent addition and it should be possible to upgrade this part of the Hut internally to make it a suitable store. Such a store could also house the WPC records if required to do so. A survey drawing and an outline scheme for such a use has been drawn up and is attached to this report. The Committee has discussed the possible cost of the work outlined with Brian Tibbles, who is a recently retired builder in the village. We are grateful

to him for providing, after consulting with former colleagues, an approximate estimated cost ranging from £ 12,000 - £15,000 (subject to any unforeseen problems).

WPC MEETING 1 AUGUST 2016

The Scroll Committee request that the WPC should consider for approval the suggested improvements to the Hut outlined in this report and drawings.

Should the WPC decide to approve this proposal, then in order to take it to the next stage, the Committee further request that the WPC should set up a working party in order to:

- (a) research possible funding for the work
- (b) develop the scheme in more detail in consultation with the WPC
- (c) define the curtilage of the Heritage Hut
- (d) procure estimates
- (e) seek any necessary statutory approvals
- (f) report to the next WPC on the findings of items (a) to (e) for approval to start construction

SUPPORTING DRAWINGS ATTACHED:

Survey of the existing Heritage Hut

Sketch plan showing improvements to the flat-roofed part of the building