

# CUCKFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Queen's Hall, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5EL



## ACE Committee Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### ACE008.d - Chapel Visit and Photographs

I visited the Chapel on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July and took the photographs detailed below. As you can see there are definite signs of damp that I would recommend are treated. The décor is tired and could do with a refresh.

The lease with Dignity expired in July 2019. Reviewing the lease, it shows that Dignity were responsible for all running costs (gas, electricity etc), and were liable for keeping the Chapel in good repair, decoration and condition. I would suggest that this has not strictly been the case, as you can see from the photos, and neither had they advised us of the current condition of the Chapel.

When considering the rent going forwards, it needs to be considered how we address the defects in place. Do we continue with a peppercorn amount of £500 per annum and expect Dignity to make good the condition of the Chapel, or do we consider increasing the rent and making good the repairs ourselves?

Externally the Chapel is a lovely Victorian building, however inside this is not so apparent. There is an entrance and corridor which leads to the room used as the Chapel of Rest. This room has painted out windows and has also blocked off the higher windows, so no natural light enters the room.

Off this room is one further room, which has a separate entrance from the outside. This room has a false ceiling showing signs of damp, and also has no natural light as the false ceiling blocks the light entering from the high windows on the side. This room is showing the worst signs of damp, and is the room used for holding the recently deceased whilst waiting for Doctors to sign death certificates.

I am not aware of how often the Chapel is used.

Sam Heynes  
Parish Clerk

2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020

**Pictures of Room used for holding the recently deceased:**

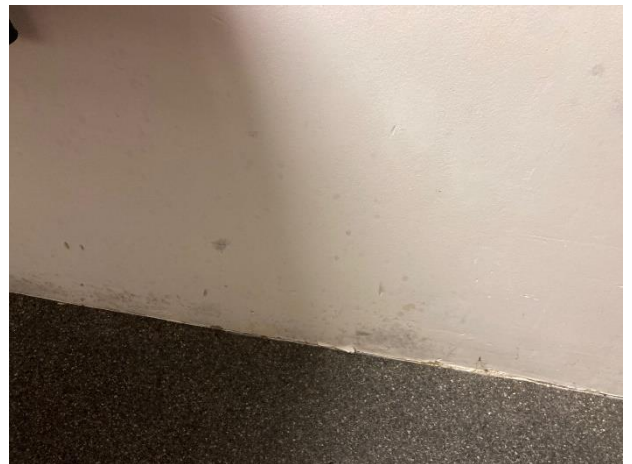


Damp to the internal door frame (left and right sides)



Damp on ceiling tiles.





Signs of damp at floor level along external walls.

Historical signs of damage above the door frame.



External wall of the room used for holding the recently deceased. This window cannot be seen from within the room due to the false ceiling. Whether the damp ceiling tiles have been caused by rising damp in a room not frequently used or a leaking roof will require investigation.

The weeds around the Chapel will be removed by our grounds team.

This door leads into the holding room and is where the damp shown around the doorframe above is at its worst.

You can also see the windows (internal shots below) which have been painted out as they form part of the main Chapel of Rest room.



### Room used as Chapel of Rest:



The windows in the Chapel of Rest room have both been painted to stop natural light coming in and people being able to see inside the room from the outside.

Close up to show how windows have been painted.



Signs of repair required around both windows, possibly caused by damp plaster.



External showing the windows which are not visible internally as they have been boarded up and form part of the Chapel of Rest. This room also has a false ceiling, although appears to be plastered rather than ceiling tiles.

## Entrance:



Signs of damp internally above the main doorway, which is also pictured below and requires repair and redecoration.



External showing the main entrance to the Chapel. There is a damaged sensor light to the left of the door which requires replacement.