

COPDOCK AND WASHBROOK PARISH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATION FORM

- Please complete all questions including signing and dating the declaration at the end of the form. Where a question is not applicable, please enter N/A on the form.
- If you wish to provide additional information or expand on a question, please provide an attached sheet.

Submission of this application does not automatically mean that an award will be granted. Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council reserves the right to award grants at its discretion. Only one project per application will be considered.

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| Name of Group/Organisation | Copdock With Washbrook PCC | | |
| Contact Name | Ruth Lincoln | Position | Church Warden |
| Address | Barn House Cherry Wood Back Lane Washbrook IP8 3SN | | |
| Telephone | 07735562048 | Email | gerbevvan@btinternet.com |
| Website | | | |
| Is your organisation a registered charity? | Yes | If Yes, Charity Number | N/A Churches don't have charity numbers |
| Brief description of your group/organisation's main purposes/activities | | | |
| <p>St Peter's Church remains at the heart of village life, hosting regular Christian services, as well as around 20 weddings plus funerals for local residents, each year. Beyond worship, the church and its members are deeply engaged in the wider community. We deliver the monthly Intouch newsletter to every household, as well as parish council updates, and organise fundraising events that have become key fixtures in village life, welcoming over 100 residents each time. Our members actively support local initiatives, collaborating with Copdock Primary School, participating in the village litter picks and footpath maintenance group, serving as directors of the village-owned pub, and contributing to many other community groups (see attached). Through these roles, the church is not just a building, but a hub for social connection, civic participation, and community wellbeing.</p> | | | |
| Please provide the number, or percentage of members that belong to the organisation and live within Copdock and Washbrook Parish area. | | | |
| <p>Around 95% of our members, approximately 80 to 100 people, are local residents, reflecting the church's deep roots in the Copdock community.</p> | | | |
| Project for which grant is required | | | |
| <p>The project will restore the historic bells and tower of St Peter's Church, Copdock, bringing a currently a mainly silent heritage asset back into active use for the community.</p> <p>Structural movement in the modified 18th-century bell frame has made the tower unsafe, for local bell ringers to train.</p> <p>The project will stabilise the medieval tower, repair and rehang the historic bells (dating from 1614–1890), and increase the ring from six to eight. A new ergonomic rope circle will make</p> | | | |

bellringing safer and more inclusive for people of all ages and abilities.

Physical access to the churchyard will be improved through a level York stone pathway, enabling safer use for older residents, families with pushchairs, and wheelchair users. These enhancements will ensure the tower and churchyard function as a shared heritage and community space.

A wide range of partners and the local community will be involved. The Suffolk Guild of Bellringers will provide technical support and training. Copdock Primary School will co-create learning activities combining local history, music, and biodiversity. Suffolk Mind and Feelgood Suffolk will support wellbeing activities such as heritage walks and nature-based sessions. The University of Suffolk will assist with oral history and soundscape recording, while parish volunteers and the Copdock and Washbrook Church Heritage Trust will help deliver activities and ensure long-term care.

Outcomes:

- Safeguard the Grade II* listed tower, bell frame, and historic bells for future generations.
- Restore the sound of the bells as a symbol of village identity and continuity.
- Improve access so more residents can enjoy and engage with the site.
- Build community skills, participation, and volunteer networks through training, events, and heritage activities.
- Create a living heritage hub that combines learning, wellbeing, nature, and history, addressing rural isolation and enhancing cultural and social engagement in Copdock.

Have you received, applied or intend to apply for funding from any other source for this project?

Yes

If Yes, who have you applied to or who do you intend to apply to. Please provide details of the success/failure of the application and amount requested.

Funding for the Project

- From our own funds £50,000.
- Volunteer work – reducing costs £25,000
- Lottery at phase two, awaiting acceptance £250,000
- Suffolk Guild of Bells Ringers – letter of confidence £12,000 – considered formally in June. Likely to get a grant for additional bells
- CIL grant from Babergh – applying for May bidding slot, and a number of other grant funders.

Our request to the Parish Council is for a contribution of £10,000.

How much will the project cost?

The total cost after review is £450,000

This Includes:

- Rehanging and retuning the Bells.
- Strengthening the tower.
- Adding two additional bells
- Repairs to the tower and tower roof.
- Level access to the church

How much of the total cost do your group/organisation intend to raise yourself and how?

We have raised £45,000 by fund raising so far, and we have already reduced costs by the use of volunteers by £30,000.

How will the project be delivered?

The project will be led by the PCC Executive Body with guidance from a specialist bell consultant and conservation architect. Capital works, tendered to a professional bell hanger and local historic building firm, will stabilise the tower and restore the bells to ensure heritage standards are met.

Activities will be coordinated by Abby Ray (freelance NLHF Activity and Evaluation Consultant) working with the PCC and a network of partners including Copdock Primary School, Suffolk Mind, the Suffolk Guild of Bellringers, and the University of Suffolk. Over 30 local organisations, from the Women's Interest Group and Scouts to choirs, local astronomers and ecologists, and arts groups, will help shape and deliver learning, wellbeing, and community events.

Volunteers will act as heritage stewards, biodiversity monitors, and digital storytellers, embedding the project in the community. By combining professional expertise with local knowledge and participation, the project will be delivered safely, inclusively, and sustainably, creating a vibrant, living heritage hub for Copdock.

When will the project start and be completed by?

The restoration works are scheduled to begin in September/October 2026 and are expected to be completed by February 2027, ensuring the tower and bells are stabilised and fully functional for the community.

The programme of community activities will launch alongside the works in September 2026 and will continue over the following two years, providing sustained opportunities for learning, engagement, and participation while the church is brought back to life as a vibrant heritage hub.

Please tick to confirm you have included the following documentation with your application (please enter n/a if not applicable):

- A copy of your most recent financial accounts
- Copy of your organisation's Constitution, Terms of Reference or Rules



DECLARATION

Please sign the following declaration and return this form together with all supporting documentation required to: The Parish Clerk to Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council,

Email: clerk@copdockandwashbrook.org

Please ensure the person signing the declaration on behalf of your organisation has the appropriate authority to do so.

"I confirm that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I agree that any money awarded by Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council as a result of this application will only be used for the purposes stated in the said application.

I confirm that the proposed project is lawful and conforms to any rules governing our group/organisation. I further agree to providing copies of receipts and invoices etc. if requested to Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council, to confirm to them exactly how the money has been spent if the application is successful.

I understand that all money awarded must be repaid to Copdock and Washbrook Parish Council and my organisation will not be able to apply for future grant applications in the following circumstances:

- If a false declaration is made, or if any information contained in the application is found to be false, inflated or exaggerated;
- If the proposed project does not proceed/or is abandoned for any reason or if the organisation disbands during the period of the grant;
- If the organisation does not provide requested invoices and receipts confirming how the money has been spent or does not comply with any other conditions stipulated in the award"

Signed



Print Name ...Ruth Lincoln

Position in the organisation Church Warden

Date 17th March 2026