

Heritage Statement

This statement supports a Listed Building application for Wilshaw Village Hall, Wilshaw Road, Wilshaw, Meltham, HD9 4DX.



The application site is located to the South of Wilshaw Road(B6107) between the larger villages of Meltham and Netherthong and is within Wilshaw Conservation area.

The Village Hall is grade 2 listed and was listed in 1984 with number 1184182.

The building is the single storey former village day school which opened in 1873 and closed in 1974/5. It formally became the Village Hall in 1982.





It was constructed in hammer dressed stone with chamfered mullion windows and a pitched slate roof by Messrs. Kirk and sons, of Huddersfield and was commissioned by the textile manufacturer and philanthropist Joseph Hirst who established a model industrial community in Wilshaw in the mid-19th century. It is attached to the former School Masters House which is under separate ownership. The village Hall had a sympathetic extension including toilets and a store room added around twenty years ago which was organised by the Village Hall committee and financed by donations and fundraising. Little work has been carried out to the building since the extension was built and although it is still used regularly further changes and improvements are now required to ensure its survival.

After a lengthy and costly dispute with the former owners the Village Hall committee (with the assistance of loans from villagers) purchased the building in 2018. They are now seeking approval from the council, via this application, for a number of changes which should make the building much more appealing and capable of surviving as the only community building in the village, apart from the church. Another fundraising appeal will be required in order to finance the proposed works.

The requested changes would be beneficial to the building and are necessary to ensure its sustainability as a community building. The minor harm to original features would be outweighed by an improved appearance, improved comfort and energy efficiency, greater community use and public benefit. Without change there will be no long-term future for the building as a community building and it would face an uncertain future that is likely to result in far more harmful changes to its significance than those requested here.