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**Report to Committee: Installation of a Mesh System to Improve Wi-Fi Connectivity at the Village Hall**

**Date:** 17th October

**To:** Village Hall Management Committee

**From:** Parish Clerk

**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present a proposal for installing a mesh Wi-Fi system at the Village Hall to boost the internet connection for hirers and visitors. The installation of such a system would address current connectivity issues, improve user experience, and provide a reliable internet service for various events and activities.

**Background**

The Village Hall hosts a wide variety of events, including meetings, community activities, and private functions. However, in recent months, several hirers have reported issues with inconsistent Wi-Fi service, especially in specific areas like the rear meeting room. While the recent phone line repairs have improved overall reliability, the persistent connectivity problems remain a source of frustration. This not only impacts the success of events but may also discourage hirers from returning to use the venue in the future.

The current Wi-Fi system, located in the Clerks Office, lacks the capacity to serve the number of users and the size of the building effectively. A mesh Wi-Fi system would be a cost-effective solution to enhance coverage and ensure stable, high-speed internet in all areas of the hall.

**What is a Mesh Wi-Fi System?**

A mesh Wi-Fi system consists of multiple devices that work together to create a unified Wi-Fi network. Unlike a single router, which has limited coverage and may struggle to reach all parts of a large building, a mesh system extends the signal across multiple points, ensuring strong connectivity in every room or area.

**Benefits to Hirers**

* **Enhanced User Experience**: Reliable Wi-Fi is essential for businesses, workshops, and other events requiring internet access.
* **Support for Multiple Devices**: Hirers often have multiple attendees connecting with phones, laptops, and tablets. A mesh system can accommodate higher traffic without sacrificing speed or quality.
* **Competitive Advantage**: Offering robust Wi-Fi could make the Village Hall more attractive to potential hirers, increasing bookings and revenue.

**Cost and Installation**

Initial costs for a mesh Wi-Fi system vary based on the size and number of nodes required. A preliminary estimate suggests that for a venue the size of the Village Hall, a three-node system would be sufficient, with costs ranging between **£200-£500** depending on the specific brand and model chosen. Installation can typically be done within a day and does not require significant infrastructure changes.

**Clerk Recommendations**

Investing in a mesh Wi-Fi system will provide significant benefits for the Village Hall by ensuring a reliable, high-quality internet connection for all hirers. This improvement will enhance the usability of the hall, encourage more bookings, and help maintain a competitive edge as a venue. It is recommended that Committee:

1. **Approve the installation** of a mesh Wi-Fi system to improve internet connectivity at the Village Hall.
2. **Allocate a budget** for the purchase and installation of the system, with a budget range of up to £500.
3. **Promote the improved Wi-Fi system** to future hirers as a key feature of the hall.