

<p>Village Hall Working Party Committee meeting – VHWC</p> <p>26th April 2022 – 7.00pm – ‘Teams’, Ousden</p> <p>Attendees from the working party:</p> <p>Celia Holt (Chair)– CH</p> <p>Christine Ingham – CI</p> <p>Julie Pryke – JP</p> <p>Mike Hole - MH</p> <p>Richard Hurrell – RH</p> <p>John Gale – JG</p> <p>Attendees from the management committee:</p> <p>Jessamy Saltmarsh – JS</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Sophie Mason - SM</p>	To Action	Time Frame
<p>CH – After our last ‘creative meeting’ the action points from it were that we need key items to move the project forward – the key item was a breakdown of the current costs.</p> <p>MH – Costs are not available, MH needs to write the specification for the QS to quote and time has not allowed for this to happen. MH will definitely do this for the next time, but will forward ahead of the meeting if it has been done before.</p> <p>CH - Asked if any conversations have taken place with planning/ planning department. MH offered that he was waiting for Ed Fosker to come back regarding the representative who was responsible for funding at the council (The Locality Officer). MH will chase Ed Fosker.</p> <p>CH – Felt that to move the project and even this meeting forward then we must have the foundation of understanding the cost and a clear list of people who will help us. We have a lot of ideas but we are struggling in which direction we go at this point.</p> <p>CH pointed out that currently her personal workload is large and ultimately one has to decide to either take a slow pace or grasp the project and get on with it and at the moment CH is not sure she has the time required to do that, but that being the case someone may need to take over the project with CH would still like to be involved with giving her time and being part of that and has ideas to help the project.</p> <p>CI named John Easton as the Locality Officer. CI suggested going back to</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>	<p>24th MAY</p> <p>24th MAY</p>

the village to really see if they wanted a village hall. CH agreed but felt that we needed costs to determine what that hall would be i.e. all singing all dancing or a reduced version of it – we just need some more facts, before being comfortable to present to the village.

RH mentioned that he had looked at modular buildings again and the website mentioned assistance with design, planning and understand the village hall funding issues and RH though it was interesting to mention it again. CI said that this sounded like something that CAS – ProHelp had offered some time ago i.e. architect and advice, but we went down a different route. RH also mentioned they can assist with planning but MH pointed out that ultimately we still can't take down the old hall without having a new hall and that is a sticking point for the project still. It might be cheaper but we still have the same underlying issues with planning.

JP stated that if we find a cheaper alternative – we would have something to fund raise against and then we knock down the existing village hall and build when we have the money. MH agreed with all those points but we are still looking at 500K as a cheaper option he felt.

RH asked again do we actually want/need a village hall and felt that meeting room/loos/ storage and a marquee seems quite attractive at this moment in time with cost and supply issues. CH added that we could always have the option to fund raise individual projects to bolt on changing area for example and build up the hall in bite size chunks.

CH wanted to clarify 'do we need a hall built before we take the old one down' CH thought that we only needed to have the money or an undertaking that someone would be funding it? MH clarified that you would have to demonstrate that we had the money before we started. We wouldn't be able to demolish until we had a mechanism in place to secure the money to build a new one. MH said policy was strict about demolishing village halls. CH just pointed out that the hall just has no longevity and it is not really used in winter, it is a cheap but not a desirable option for events and it will continue to deteriorate. So we need to be clear if we can knock it down but be clear about its replacement – is it a kitchen, and loos and have the option of building on at later dates as individual projects – but we need to have that plan costed and the legal likelihood of acceptance through planning and put that to the villagers. There are many hurdles and we need to be clear on the way through these before we present it, with as much advice as possible from people like Ed Fosker, John Easton and Mike Chester we need their help.

CH said that we need some deadlines to get after this.

CI raised the PortaKabin idea again, but MH felt that we would only get about 5 years permission for it. JG felt that it would be a temporary option and couldn't be used for much really and could then die a death.

CI asked about adapting what we had (keeping the newer parts of the hall) MH felt that ultimately because there would be a requirement to upgrade insulation etc. it would most likely be cheaper to demolish. CI mentioned that SM had said it will be harder to raise money for a smaller hall/project – but again that is where we need to see costs so SM can

determine the viability of any fundraising target, who we approach etc.

MH pointed out that the planners have said that they have given as much advice as they will give, they have stated we can make a pre-application on the hall, however MH feels that is a waste of time and money as a pre-app will just quote 'policy' and MH knows the policy – we do not need to pay for it.

JP feels that we are not that far away from closing the hall as we are struggling with booking clerk, cleaning etc. CH felt that if it was an attractive hall it would be a local opportunity for employment for a local person, but it is not that.

CH suggested that we have a key hand back date 'January 2023'!

CI mentioned that some people in the village do help but it is often the same 4 people looking after things. The meetings did not drum up any new helpers prepared to sit on a committee apart from SM.

CH pointed out the assets we have such as the village playing fields, and the playground is well used and the cricket pitch which is far better quality now and perhaps we have to hire in loos and marquees to support what we have apart from the village hall.

JP would like to know how much it will cost to put up a very basic village hall and ask SM if at that level is there any chance to get funding at that level and is it a goer or not and if it is not then we should have a plan to wind up the village hall.

CH asked MH when he thinks to have the figures and he suggest a month today **24th May 7pm was agreed.**

Expectation of that meeting is to have;

- The actual cost of the current proposal
- Scaled down cheapest possible version of the hall on the current footprint
- Cost of an actual minimal amenity block – toilets, kitchen, small meeting/changing room for cricket – small store for outside events / marquee and essentials

CH asked current funds – CI reported £50,388 – JP commented that the actual money in the bank is £65,000 approximately – JS said that some of the money is restricted funds for a certain purpose only that is was given for approximately £2-3000 and then a £5,000 reserve but JS though that this could be used. After demolition (£40,000), we would have only about £20,000 currently.