

**MINUTES OF THE VILLAGE HALL WORKING PARTY
MEETING HELD ON 21st August 2007**

Present:	Geoff Price	Lesley Lagden
	Mary Langley	Terry Sealey
	Rowland Hill	Daphne Jay
	Neville Kent	Gill Turner
	Frank Morris	Joy Morris
	Peggy Rodgers	Julia Harrington
	Andy Hately	Richard Fryer
	Glenn Sorrell	Alex Macfarlane

No representatives attended from Mother and Toddler Group, Allsorts Playgroup, Glemsford Primary School, Multi Forum Agency, Social Club Football Team or St. Mary's Church.

046 Village Hall Proposals

The chairman opened the meeting by reading through the working party remit (copy attached), and then explained that she and the clerk had met with Babergh officers earlier that day to discuss grants available. They had been urged to complete the village plan and also to now contact an architect with a view to planning once decisions had been made regarding the needs of users.

The Clerk had been in contact with the planning department who had advised that a mirror image of the present hall would probably be the best course of action.

Rowland Hill stressed that care must be taken to plan for the next ten or twenty years and not just for the present needs.

The Chairman stated that the council were aware that storage space is an issue, and it may be prudent to supply an office that various organisations could utilise, as well as showers and the changing rooms.

Mary Langley expressed concern that the changing rooms might deter current hall users. She was advised that it would not be a separate building as the idea was to build onto the present facilities and not to start a new project.

The Vice Chairman informed those present that at present the hall was widely used and it would be prudent now to have two separate halls so that separate activities could happen at the same time. He explained that the council would be sensitive to bookings and would only have activities running together that would complement each other.

Mr. Price suggested looking into sprung floors for martial arts groups. A removable floor was also suggested as well as interlocking mats to keep expenditure within reasonable boundaries.

Lesley Lagden expressed the wish for a proper equipped kitchen and the possibility of staging.

Mary Langley asked that the acoustics of the hall be a matter of importance.

Three sets of changing rooms with showers had been discussed and Rowland Hill suggested that these changing rooms should not just be for football but should be suitable for other sport teams users also.

Mary Langley asked if the entrance could be facing the road with the car parking to side. The Clerk explained that indications were that there would be an entrance and exit with the car parking in the same position as it is already, with the overflow possibly being on the recreation ground.

Questions were asked about long standing groups locking the building after they had used it. It was expected that the Clerk would have overall responsibility for this, although a facilities manager may be considered.

Mr. Morris asked about storage for the Carpet Bowls. Once the remote control car equipment was moved from the committee room this would be addressed as a short term compromise.

Mary Langley asked about storage for the Gardening Club books. The Clerk explained that as they only currently used the hall once per month for nine months of the year this was not possible, but it may be so if the extension went ahead.

Rowland Hill endorsed all suggestions for sporting facilities as an excellent idea, and agreed that the kitchen needed upgrading. He felt that the new hall could be purpose built to fit all the requirements.

Neville Kent had concerns about the security of the site, and recently one of his members had their vehicle vandalised. The Vice-chairman agreed that police were not tackling the problem and felt that telephone and internet access could improve this situation.

As the Chairman had been told that the project could possibly take three years to bring to fruition then the possibility of portakabins for football changing facilities would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm

Approved

Date