

The Shelsleys Village Hall

Excerpts of Minutes
from 1945 – 1960

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS 1945

A Meeting of Parishioners was held in the School on Friday, 2nd November, 1945.

Present

Messrs. W.I. Moore, R. Guilding, P. Kirby, A.I. Moore, J.F.S. Browne, W.A. Jones, R. Gwinnett, Bevan, Rev. W.H.S. Davies, J. Meredith, Mrs. T. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wall, Mrs. Pugh, Mr. Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Beech, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Hedges.

Chairman

Mr. W.I. Moore was unanimously elected Chairman.

The Chairman's remarks were summed up in the following proposition:-

Object of Meeting

That something should be done in the Shelsleys, to commemorate the war services of our men and women of The Shelsleys. This was carried unanimously.

It was then decided that a Village Hall worthy of the services of our men and women is necessary as a centre for our social life.

National Council of Social Service Mr. Hedges briefly outlined the help which National Council of Social Service could give.

Temporary Building Committee

The possible desirability of a temporary Hall was discussed. The matter was left for future consideration.

It was resolved to elect a Committee to ascertain the best way of carrying out the project of building a Parish Hall.

It was decided to contact the National Council of Social Service.

The following Committee was elected:-

Mr. W.I. Moore, Mr. R. Guilding, Revd. W.H.S. Davies, Mr. P. Kirby, Mr. J.F.S. Browne, Mr. A.I. Moore, Mr. E. Bond, Mr. J. Wall, Mr. W.T. Tyler, Mr. T. Venables, Sir F.S. Winnington Bart, Mr. W.J. Daniel, Mr. T. Davis, Mr. V.H. Hedges, Mrs. Carrington, Mrs. Hedges, Mrs. R. Gwinnett, Mrs. J.H. Tyler.

Vicar of St. Michael's, Smethwick.

The Chairman read a letter from The Revd. J.H. Chamberlain, Vicar of St. Michael's, Smethwick, who was desirous of raising a fund to provide something permanent to show the appreciation of Past and Present Members of his Boys' Camp who have come to The Church House Farm for so many years.

It was decided that the Chairman should thank the Revd. Chamberlain for his kindly thought and bring to his notice the Parish Hall project, suggesting that perhaps the provision of a wing or room of the proposed Village Hall might commend itself as a worthy objective.

The Meeting then closed.

1946 JANUARY 6TH - The next recorded minutes where -

Appreciation of Mr. W.L. Moore's benevolence in giving a site and a Donation of £100 was voiced by several members of the Committee.

1946 MAY 29th - Funds began to trickle in -

Mr. Percy Kirby handed in a cheque for £100 - as a donation from himself and his brothers thus raising the fund to £278.14.3.

A cheque was forthwith drawn for £270 - payable to Lloyds Bank (C. & C. Branch) Worcester for the purchase of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % Defence Bonds;

Canvassers

The Meeting agreed that Canvassers be appointed to approach all parishioners for donations.

1946 DEC 3RD - Funds stood at £922.9.0d and social events organised -

Dance

It was decided to hold a Whist Drive and Dance on Friday, 31st January 1947, to be held in the Hop Drying Room at the Church House, which was offered by the Chairman.

Progress of

Mr. A.L. Moore reported that the band had been engaged, the band being Fred Waite and his Orchestra from Malvern.

Chairs and Tables he had arranged to hire from Clifton, Martley and Stanford.

2 Buses had been arranged, and routes and times would be announced later.

1947 AUGUST 16TH - Funds now stood at £1,350 This included the £50 donated by the boys of St Michael's Smethick, who had been camping at The Church House Farm for the last 40 years. Although the hall was nowhere near to being built -

Purchase of Equipment

The Hon. Sec. was given permission by general consent of the Meeting to purchase 60 Packs of Playing Cards, and to make enquiries re the purchasing of Tables and Chairs. It was suggested that Capt. J. Hopercroft and Mr. T. Venables be approached on the subject.

1947 DECEMBER 7th -

Financial
Report

The Hon. Secretary reported that £1,350 had already been invested. That there was £7,7.1. cash in hand, £23.7.0. in the Bank, and money received from investments was £58.2.9.

1949 JANUARY 11th - Mr. Stubbs, the Area Organiser, visited with unwelcome news -

Business -
Mr. Stubbs

Mr. Stubbs spoke to the Meeting and explained the difficulties of building Parish Halls at the present time. He said that grants from the Carnegie Trust were no longer available, but that the Government would consider granting money towards the cost of building.

The plans, site, Deeds of Trust and Rules etc, would all have to be approved by the appropriate Authority first.

Prospects of
building

The prospects of building he said were very remote, and all he could really advise was that the Committee went ahead with some plans, and apply for a building permit.

He held out no hopes for the building of a permanent building at present.

The plans must be produced by a qualified architect and submitted to the various Ministry Authorities for approval.

In reply to a question as to how much freedom the Parishioners had in running their Hall, once a government grant had been given, he said that the Committee would have complete control of the building once it was up, and not outside interference.

1949 JANUARY 11th cont.. - Mr Stubbs then outlined the formation of a management committee -

Formation of
Management
Committees

Mr. Stubbs then dealt with the formation of a Management Committee, once the grant had been given and the Hall erected. He stressed the importance of the Management Committee, and pointed out that a Village Hall was intended for the use of every section of the community, such as the Parish Council, Church and Chapel Organisations, Women's Institutes, Men's Clubs, Boys' Scouts, Girl Guides, Football,

Airgun, Gardeners and other Village Clubs etc. Therefore all should have a voice in the running of the Hall and its management, without distinction of Political - Religious or other opinions. The idea was generally, that for each such organisation in the Village, to have the right to appoint one member on the Committee of Management, as its representative. An annual general Parish

1952 APRIL 8th - Funds stood at £1,504.17.3d -

Consideration was also made of converting the stables at the back of the Rectory, but only if Diocese Authorities would give freehold title to the land.

1955 JULY 4th - Funds rose to £1614. But the committee started to push the project forward -

General

4) The Committee welcomed the fact that building restrictions had now been lifted and government grants restored.

With this in view they saw no reason why a start should not be made on the proposed Hall.

After general discussions it was agreed that an Architect should be engaged to come down and discuss with the Committee suitable plans for a Hall. An application should then be made to the appropriate Authorities for a grant, so that building may be started. This was unanimously agreed upon, and that the total scheme to cost about £3,000 - £3,500.

As soon as an Architect had been engaged and some plans produced, another general Meeting would be held.

1959 APRIL 1st - After 4 years the General Parish Meeting was held at the School with the Committee, the Architect and approximately 50 Parishioners. It was reported that -

Plans had now been finalized, and quotations received from several Building Contractors.

Grants obtained were £1,400 from the Ministry of Education, £500 from the County Education, which together with our balance in hand of approximately £1,788 totalled a sum of £3,688. The Builders' estimate was £4,000, thus leaving approximately £400 still to be raised. Therefore, subject to the wish of those present we were in a position to consider starting the building of the Hall.

Mr. Greenwood the Architect, presented the Plans which he explained in detail, answering several questions asked by various

Mr. W. Beech then proposed, seconded by Mr. Wife, that

"work should be started on the building of the Village Hall".

1959 OCTOBER 28TH – It was reported that SOME WORK HAS STARTED on the Hall ground –

Bulldozing

The Secretary reported that a certain amount of bull-dozing had to be carried out by Mr. Frank Gill which was contracted for by the Committee and the total of hours was $18\frac{1}{2}$ hours, as the Contractors' and Mr. Holloway's bulldozer was not quite sufficiently big enough to carry out the removal of the amount of earth that was required in the short time.

The cost of the hall would be £4,011 and the total money available £1,869.18.2d

leaving a deficit of £242.0.0. It was generally agreed that this was a very satisfactory state of affairs, and the Committee expressed their satisfaction. However, it was obvious that this further sum of money must be raised very shortly and it was therefore agreed that a sum of between £400.0.0. and £500.0.0. be raised as soon as possible.

1960 February 4th – The house to house collection made some impact on the deficit –

The report on the house to house collection was given and it was reported that £230 had been donated and that there were still further amounts to come in from people who had promised money. It was agreed that a duplicated letter should be sent to all members of the parishes giving a list of subscribers so that those who had not yet given and those who might want to give some more could do so.

1960 MARCH 9TH – Water is not laid on but –

Water Supply

It was decided that a temporary supply of water for washing-up etc. could be obtained from the stream, if it was pumped up into a temporary tank raised on the bank behind the hall. It was thought that Mr. Roger Ward would lend a tank.

1960 APRIL 12TH - A General meeting of the village was held at the school and a new Committee was elected ready for the opening of the Hall -

The Chairman reported that the Parish Hall would possibly be ready for opening in four or five weeks' time. A discussion then followed as to the possible date for the opening and it was agreed that it should co-incide with the Garden Fete, being held in the evening of July 9th. A dance would be held in the Hall that night. Mr. P. Kirby suggested that Mr. Hugh Sumner C.B.E. J.P. should be invited to perform the opening ceremony.

1960 MAY 16TH - The new Committee finalise the opening of the Hall -

Invitations

It was proposed and passed unanimously that all those who had subscribed to the Parish Hall, and lived outside the parish, should be sent an invitation for the opening of the Hall. This invitations would include free entrance and a free tea for the Fete.

Garden Fete

Draw

The committee agreed that a Worcester China tea service, to be paid for out of the funds, should be given as a prize for the draw.

Dance

The committee agreed that a sub-committee should be formed to run the dance which would consist, as far as possible, of people not already involved in work for the Fete. After a

1960 JULY 9TH THE VILLAGE HALL OPENS

THIS WAS CAPTURED ON FILM AND FORMS PART OF THE VIDEO