

NOTES TAKEN AT THE PUBLIC MEETING FOR

CRAWLEY DOWN VILLAGE HALL ON

18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019 AT 7.30.P.M.

Apologies received from:

Wendy Hamer, Debbie and Jeremy Payne, Pam Perrett, Abigail Welford, Raymond Elgy and Craig Davies

The Chairman, Marion Welchman thanked everyone for attending and advised that the meeting was solely to discuss the future for our Village Hall. She advised that in 1890 a conveyance of a parcel of land was purchased by the elders of the area and thereafter by 1906 our Village Hall was built for and on behalf of the residents of Crawley Down. At this time this was the heart of the village.

In those days horses and horses and carts would have been the prime form of transport. However, it is a different story in to-day's world. Most families own a car and use this form of transport to ease their daily lives and car-parking facilities at any venue, i.e. shops, libraries, doctors, leisure facilities to name but a few are a must.

This, unfortunately is not the case for our Village Hall. When Palmer's Garage was adjacent to the Hall, we were able to use their forecourt for parking. Since that business was sold and the land purchased by a developer (which is about 5 years ago) parking has been reduced to those 3 spaces directly in front of the front doors although we do use the hard-standing to the side, which is not strictly ours to use, and that is it.

We had hoped that the Hastoe's building project (The Pheasantry) would have made available a car park in the front of the development onto Turner's Hill Road, with a designated crossing, for use of the residents of the project and the Village Hall, but that was not to be. We made enquiries of the Developer of the Palmer's site (for land for a car park) but that was not to be. We made extensive enquiries and took Surveyor's advice to use the side entrance to the Hall and to knock down the buildings behind the Hall to make a car park but this was deemed not to be viable and indeed could be dangerous. We have nowhere left to turn.

Over the last 5 years income from the Hall's hire which pays for our Rates, heating, lighting, water, insurances and repairs etc., has been greatly reduced year on year on year because we do not have the 'space' for the modern motor car. Sadly, our evening WI meet elsewhere where it is safer to off-load their ageing members, the same applies to Monday Club. 'Slimming World' received many objections to their members' vehicles purportedly causing obstruction. No large groups will hire the Hall because of the non-existent parking.

## 2.

As Trustees it is our responsibility to make sure, as stated in the Trust Deed, that the Village Hall goes on in perpetuity for the benefit of the Villagers of Crawley Down and this has been our mission for the past year plus to make it so. We have, therefore, explored as many avenues as possible to this end. Our sincere thanks to a Councillor, Phillip Coote who facilitated meetings with MSDC which culminated in a Letter of Comfort in respect of the construction of a new Village Hall.

After much discussion, soul-searching and resignation of some of the Committee, we as the Trustees voted to go ahead. This is where we are to-day. We all love our Village Hall but nothing goes on forever, and even if the parking situation was miraculously solved, the building is old and would need substantial renovation, so it is our intention to go ahead and hopefully have a bigger brighter 'new' for 'old' community space where our Village Hall will go on for at least another 100 + years. Are there any questions?

- **Where is this land?**

It is the car park of the Haven Sports Field where the clothes and shoe bins are. The actual area has a number of trees growing there. We have been informed that 4 of these trees may have to be felled. We have informed the Council that we will replace these trees elsewhere if required.

- **How high will this new building be?**

The building will be a single storey structure only. However, there will be a pitched roof so as to facilitate our badminton clubs etc.

- **What will the building structure be?**

It will not be a modern looking building, but something like our old Village Hall.

- **Will it be long enough for indoor bowls?**

Absolutely.

- **What will happen to the Groups that use the Village Hall now?**

(For instance, the WI who had their first meeting in our Hall 93 years ago)

There are a number of Groups that have used the Village Hall for many years and it is our hope, in order to keep them as Village Hall users, to have the new Hall built before we say a sad goodbye to the original Hall.

We are not in competition with anybody, we just want to secure the Groups that already use our Village Hall, i.e. our Badminton Clubs, Dancers, Keep Fitters and WI in a safe environment.

3.

- **How will the Village Hall be run?**

The Hall will be run in the same organised Management structure as it is now. Our Committee consists of a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Booking Clerk, Janitor and a number of willing workers. We are all Trustees of the Village Hall who are committed by our Constitution, to see it run properly in the Village, for the Village.

We would like to now invite you to come and look over the plans that have been drawn up. Your comments and suggestions would be greatly appreciated, so please feel free to discuss. As you will see the building will have the same amenities, but with the addition of an extra smaller Hall. However, as you will also see, there is a lot more parking available, which will be safer for users, and pedestrians who will not then have to walk in the road.

Thank you for your attendance here this evening.

Meeting concluded at 7.55.p.m