

MINUTES OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 28th April 2003 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr D Marriage (In the chair)
R Bagni
R Windmill
M Heyland
D Hayes
S Siddons
M Beal
D Pearson

IN ATTENDANCE: T Littley (Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: 48 members of the Public, Norman Lee and Colin Siddons –
Village Hall Committee, County Cllr Piggott

VILLAGE HALL:

Introduction

Cllr Marriage explained the reason for holding an extraordinary meeting, which was for the Parish Council to decide whether to re-confirm the £20,000 grant and £65,000 loan previously made for the new hall and re-allocate these sums to a refurbished hall.

Brief Background:

Cllr Bagni explained how past management committees had neglected their duties in not maintaining the hall to an acceptable level. The current Chairman and his officers have dedicated themselves since 1998 in rectifying this, i.e. renegotiating a new lease and refurbishment/ re-build. Following a change in Lottery rules, a new build was not viable. A re-furbished hall was proposed which would satisfy all the villager's requirements and would ensure an essential part of the village continued. If the Parish Council did not assist with the financing of the hall, the Trustees would not be able to continue and would therefore have to wind up the charity, and the running and financing of the hall would revert back to the Parish Council.

Presentation of the Refurbished Hall:

Norman Lee presented the Parish Council with an information folder including plans, finance details with funding elements and the proposed phases of refurbishment. A presentation was then given on the breakdown of all 5 phases proposed for the refurbished hall. It was explained how the hall would eventually become multi-functioning, thus increasing revenue. As the hall stands numbers of hiring's are dropping. It was also explained how the costings for each phase were decided, this being specifications given to a builder and architect. Funding for the first phase is achievable. Private donators have re-pledged their gifts towards the refurbishment of the hall. Further fund raising would ensue, allowing for additional phases to be completed in future years.

Cllr Bagni explained that following the refurbishment; promotion of the hall would be essential. A customer pack would be created promoting the hall as a venue for

weddings, parties, business meetings, and other users, as well as maintaining current users. A Hall Manager would be appointed responsible for marketing the hall, with the Trustees assisting.

Finances

Cllr Bagni explained that if the Parish Council re-pledged the 20k grant and 65k loan towards the refurbished hall, this would allow the trustees to sign a new lease and commence with the preparations of phase 1. The downside to not re-pledging would be that there could eventually be no village hall.

The total cost of all 5 phases would be £305k, with the 1st phase costing £139k.

Concern was raised amongst the Councillors with the following;

Costings – care on costings and detail analysis needed

Confirmation that the village wants a refurbished hall

Specific Declarations of Interest

Cllr Siddons	Husband is Chairman of the Village Hall Committee
Cllr Bagni	Member of the Village Hall working party
Cllr Marriage	Previous member of the New Village Hall working party

General Discussion

The Floor:

A petition was presented to the Parish Council by members of the Playgroup, with a total of 97 signatures supporting the proposal for a refurbished hall.

A member of the public raised questions, which were explained and answered by the Village Hall Trustees.

Proposal and Vote:

Cllr Bagni proposed that 'this Parish Council re-confirms the £20,000 grant and £65,000 loan previously made for the new hall and re-allocate these sums to a refurbished hall', seconded by Cllr Siddons,

Amendment: And that the Parish Council joins with the Village Hall Trustees in forming a working party of equal representatives from the Parish Council and Trustees, overseeing work and expenditure.

Amendment: Subject to a lease of a minimum duration of 50 years and subject to the Parish Council raising a loan of £65k.

Proposed in its entirety by Cllr Heyland, seconded by Cllr Bagni, unanimous decision.

Meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.