

HALLS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Halls Committee held at 10 pm on Thursday 21 June 2007

Present Chairman: Cllr M Cole
Cllrs P J Adams and M Taylor
Officer: Mrs Janet Holmes

ACTION

- 76. **To accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllrs P Davies, B Slater and S Tilbey
- 77. **Declarations of interest**
Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
- 78. **Public Forum**
No members of the public were present
- 79. **Minutes of the Halls Committee Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2007 were signed as a true record by the Chairman.
- 80. ***In view of the confidential nature of the following items, councillors resolved that pursuant to Sect 12 of the Public Bodies {Admission to Meetings} Act 1960 as applied by Section 100 of the Local Government Act of 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting.
Because of the financial and contractual nature of the discussions the following minutes record only information in the public domain.
Further information, for Council use only, is attached in a confidential minute.***
- 81. **To receive reports on the meetings with other bodies**
 - a. Hall Users
Cllr Cole reported that he had spoken with two regular hall users who welcomed the idea of a new building. Concerns raised
To ensure rooms were soundproofed
Where would the existing users go if the building was demolished and rebuilt.

Cllr Adams reported that his investigations had received favourable responses to the building being demolished and rebuilt. There was a perceived need for a parish hall but doubts were expressed about the popularity and viability of a cinema.

Cllr Davies sent a report on his conversation with one of the groups which meets monthly in the Dropmore Room. They usually have 70 people attending for talks, slide shows and lunch. Concern was expressed as to their requirements being met during any rebuilding. It was recommended that temporary buildings be hired to accommodate some of their needs.

Cllr Taylor reported on a meeting with a local business man. He had expressed a preference for demolishing and rebuilding the premises and erecting a 2 storey building with a pitched roof.

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Cllr Taylor also reported on his meeting with one of the regular hirers of the Dropmore room. This group would be happy with a smaller hall but have concerns regarding the security of the car park

Cllr Tilbey sent a report from his conversation with BCA

- a. Rooms should be sound proofed
- b. There was a requirement for a stage of some type
- c. Security in Car Park to be improved
- d. A Café would be desirable

There was the possibility that the Advice Centre could re locate in a more central position in High Street.

b. Kino

The company were experiencing problems in terms of expansion at the moment. They were still interested in a joint venture but could require the Parish to invest funds in the building, with them paying the outfitting costs.

It was noted that the seating would be permanently installed on a sloping floor therefore the venue could only be used by a limited number of other groups. Cllr Cole would be meeting with executives from Kino in the near future. He recommended that other councillors visit the existing facility at Hawkhurst in Kent.

c. Thames Valley Police

The Clerk had discussed the provision of accommodation with Inspector George Wrigley. Thames Valley Police could be interested in moving some personnel to Burnham Park. They would not be able to invest money in the building but would pay rental and any outfitting costs. Further information would be available on their requirements before any architects drawings are made.

Councillors agreed that a long term commitment i.e. 20 years would be the preferred option should further discussions take place.

d. Other interested bodies

Letters had been sent to South Bucks District Council, Bucks County Council and Slough Borough Council asking if they have a need for office accommodation in Burnham. To date only South Bucks have replied

82. To agree the type of construction needed i.e. refurbish or completely rebuild

From the information received from local residents and regular hall users the preferred option is a complete rebuild. It was noted that any rebuild could be smaller than the existing

AGREED that the Halls Committee recommend to the Full Council that Burnham Park Hall be demolished and rebuild. This being subject to planning, and to the design and costs being acceptable to the Full Council and remaining within the limits approved by the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

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Discussion took place regarding the minimum requirements for a new building.

Further information shown on the confidential appendix

The Clerk agreed to make arrangements for councillors to visit a recently erected community building in Earley.

83. To agree the arrangements to appoint architects and commence the project.

Cllr Tilbey had sourced a number of architects who would be required to submit plans in accordance with the Council's design brief. Cllr Tilbey agreed to assist with this project

A timeline would start with an Architectural Competition in September.

Further information shown on the confidential appendix

84. Date of next meeting

No date was set for the next meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.55 am