

**GLEMSFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007  
AT GLEMSFORD VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Lucy Knox                      Neil Gurr  
              Rex Thake                      Len Young  
              John Suttle                     Sid Watkinson  
              Lynne Bloomfield

Cllrs. Boone, Searle and Parmenter were not present but no apologies were received.

**034 PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE VILLAGE HALL**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the public who were in attendance.

Cllr. Gurr informed the meeting that at present, three football teams were operating from the playing fields and had been for some time. Due to the lack of changing facilities one of the teams had been unable to progress any further in the league and it was felt that facilities should be provided.

The Hall was being very well used at present, with all weekday evenings having bookings. The Clerk was having to turn some people away because there was no space. Glemsford is growing in population and it was felt that the village had outgrown the present hall.

The pavilion which was previously sited on the playing fields had been demolished last year because of vandalism so it was not felt practicable to have changing facilities on the same site.

The proposal of an extension to the Hall was put to the public which would encompass changing facilities for the football teams, more storage space and another hall area.

The Clerk and Vice Chairman had attended various meetings regarding grants and the general consensus was that it could be possible to obtain 80% of the monies through grant funding from various organisations. The Parish Council had been prudent with its reserves and had money to put into the scheme so it was anticipated that not much increase would be needed to the precept in the following year.

Mr. Hamlin informed the meeting that last year he had visited the Babergh planning office and noted that the playing fields were highlighted, He had been informed that the status had been changed from protected status to now being available for social housing. He was told that this had followed consultation from government.

Cllr. Thake expressed concern at this misinformation and stated that if this had been the case, then the playing fields would have been included on the local plan. He stated that they were protected by conservation areas, and it would be very difficult to gain permission for any housing on the field, plus it would be very unlikely that the village would want this to happen. He also stated that he had approached planning some time back to ask about the possibility of a community centre with a live in caretaker on the field and was told that from a planning point of view, this would be very unlikely to happen. He would look into this information but assured the meeting that whoever had told this to Mr. Hamlin was absolutely wrong.

Roland Hill asked about other facilities in the village, and although he strongly approved of the proposals, he worried about the duplication of efforts causing the possibility of the dilution of money. He advised that a business plan be formulated for maintenance and income and expenditure.

Cllr. Gurr agreed with the proposal of the business plan, and assured the meeting that key players would certainly be involved, including users of the village hall and all parishioners.

Eric Epton said that more facilities for young people was essential, but had concerns about the statement made by Babergh planning and the fields. Cllr. Thake assured him that Mr. Hamlin had been misinformed.

Cllr. Gurr reminded the meeting that the village plan committee were aiming to have questionnaires distributed before the end of the Summer. He said that questions would be encompassed within the plan towards the hall and the timing would fit in nicely with present proposals.

Joan Searle asked if the proposal was to extend the current building or building a separate one. The Chairman explained that it would be an extension of the current hall.

Peggy Rodgers expressed a concern about lack of storage in the current premises. Cllr. Knox agreed that more storage was needed and this would be taken into consideration as the project progressed. It would be nice if all groups could have their own storage rather than having to share cupboard space as at present.

Tracey Gibbs wanted to know if the park would be staying?

Jack Alston queried the pavilion previously sited and was told by the Chairman that the vandalism had occurred because of its non-visibility from the road.

Mr. Hamlin asked if there would be an increase of space for the library. Cllr. Thake said that there was no necessity for that and it would be in the remit of Suffolk County Council should there be a need.

Carolyn Alston said that if a new hall was to be built then the most important thing would be to ensure that the acoustics are improved.

Tracey Gibbs asked about the timescale. The Chairman stated that the intention was to get it underway as soon as possible, as we had talked about other options which had not come to fruition.

Mary Langley asked if there would be any staging and was informed that if this was the general consensus then it would be supplied.

Roland asked if a sub committee would be formed of people that have the real interest, and who were not necessarily part of the council who could help to form a strategy. Cllr Young agreed that it was a good idea to get all the groups involved but it was imperative that councillors were part of the sub committee.

Jamie Ditton asked when a decision would be made to proceed and what would the next step be? The chairman stated that we would now need to form the sub-committee to ascertain what was actually needed and then we could find out about what grants would be available.

James Alderman suggested that an element of fund raising was needed and that the Cock were more than prepared to do this. They proposed staging events throughout the village with the help and guidance of the parish council.

The Clerk would write to all hall users and ask for them to nominate representatives for the sub-committee. Once this had been ascertained, a meeting would be organised.

John Sorrell asked about temporary changing facilities for the team in the meantime and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Jamie Ditton expressed the need to bring younger people back into football and Luke Bennett said that we needed to ensure that the proposed hall would not be outgrown in five years time.

Cllr. Thake agreed with this and stated that permission would probably only be granted once for an extension so it was needed to be done properly.

Roland Hill suggested that another committee be formed for fund raising.

Scott Lawrence asked if quotes and prices could be obtained now but Cllr. Gurr advised that the sub-committee would have to be in place and then we will work as fast as we can. Cllr. Thake advised that planning should not take any longer than eight weeks once drawings are done.

There being no other business the meeting finished at 8.40 pm.

Approved .....

Date .....