

**Trustees of the Herongate Village Hall
Notes of Ordinary Meeting held on 24.9.2012**

Present: Mr Boyle (Brentwood Borough Council), Ms Collins (Ingrave Playgroup), Mr Horton (St Nicolas Church), Mr Kettle (Herongate Football Club), Mr Marsh (Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council) and Cllr Mrs Murphy (Herongate and Ingrave Preservation Society and Ward Member).

Also Present: Mrs McPherson (notes)

- 1. Introduction of those Present:** Mr Boyle welcomed those present and brief introductions were given.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the future of Herongate Village Hall. Before any decision could be taken, the Trustees were required to hold a meeting. Few of the original trustees could be contacted. The Council had attempted to contact the relevant organisations which were listed on the trust deed to re-establish a meeting of the Trustees. Representatives from each group were invited to attend this meeting and those that were present would be co-opted onto the trustees, if agreed.

Questions were raised in relation to the Parish Council and Mr Marsh advised those present that the Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council were not in existence when the deed was drawn up. Since the Parish Council was incepted, it had been contacted several times concerning the village hall and the view of those that had contacted the Parish Council was that they did not want to see the hall go, however to repair the hall, it would have cost £120,000 6 – 7 years ago therefore the prices would have gone up now. It had been suggested to the Parish Council that a new hall be put up in it placed that would be more suitable to the village and could include space for outreach programmes, pensioner clubs etc. If the Parish Council were co-opted as a trustee, they could apply for grants to assist in the development of a new facility. It was noted that a referendum in the village should be held before any decision was made on the future use of the land. Although the Parish Council currently had no associations with the Hall, they would like to see something progressed with it.

Those present considered the representation of the Parish Council and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY** to co-opt the following representatives onto the Trustees of Herongate Village:

Steve Boyle – Brentwood Borough Council
Stephanie Collins – Ingrave Playgroup
Richard Horton – St Nicolas Church
Ivor Kettle – Herongate Football Club
Alan March – Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council
Sheila Murphy – Herongate and Ingrave Preservation Society

2. **Appointment of Chairman:** RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to appoint Steve Boyle as the Chairman of the Trustees of the Herongate Village Hall.
3. **Herongate Village Hall – Future of the Building:** Those present were aware that the Herongate Village Hall was falling into disrepair and was considered by many to be a dangerous building. However, no survey had been undertaken to establish if the building was dangerous or not. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the future of the hall and whether it should be demolished or not.

As previously mentioned, the Parish Council had considered that the old building be demolished and a new built for purpose facility be erected in its place. At a recent meeting the consensus was that the building should be demolished as it had not been used for many years. There had been reports that slates had become loose from the roof and falling off.

It was suggested that the Parish Council take on the responsibility of the Hall from the Borough Council, with the trustees remaining, however it was noted that the Borough Council would remain as the freeholder and therefore any proposals for change would need to be considered by the Borough Council first. However, it was also suggested that if the trustees no longer wished to have involvement with the Hall the Parish Council would take responsibility for it on its own.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the current trust deed stipulated that if the hall was to be demolished the land would need to be grassed over and returned to Common Land. Therefore any proposals for another facility would need to be considered by the trustees. There would also be the issue of the covenant from the Church to take into consideration. Those present were also of the view that a referendum be held in the village before any decision was made.

Further to the discussion, the Chairman asked those present for their views on action should be taken with regards to the village hall. Taking into account the safety of the structure it was felt that the hall should be demolished.

In response to a question, the Chairman advised that all trustees would continue to be invited to all meetings of the Trustees of Herongate Village Hall.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

1. That for safety reasons Herongate Village Hall should be taken down.
 2. That the Trustees will consider any proposals put forward for the location at a future meeting.
4. **Any Other Business:** There were no items of other business.
 5. **Date of Next Meeting:** To be confirmed.