



BEMBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk to the Council,
5 Foreland Road, Bembridge, Isle of Wight, PO35 5XN
Tel: 01983 874160 **Email:** clerk@bembridgepc.org.uk



Arts Consultation Session

Held on Wednesday 9th November 2016 in the Small Hall Village Hall

Present: Alan Morris (Chairman Community Hub Committee), Emma Goldring (Clerk), Cllr Sally Pigot and 13 village hall users

These notes represent the comments made by both the user groups and the members of the committee

It was acknowledged that mistakes were made with the first round of public consultations. The group underestimated the numbers of people in attendance and should have undertaken user group consultation sessions first. The idea is to retain as much as we can within the future's financial pressures. Have looked at the 2016 bookings so have an idea of what happens within the Village Hall.

Lee Papworth from Lake who does not belong to the arts society is a teacher and lecturer of art for 25 weeks of the year. The sessions are to socialise, gain confidence, produce works that go into the art exhibitions held in August. 50-70 people undertaking the classes in the small hall. A maximum of 12 tables at any one time. A large amount of groups income comes from using these rooms. Once per week on a Thursday excluding July and August. Arts people also attend the bazar buying refreshments and things from the stalls.

A class is run on behalf of IW College and is separate from the Arts Society. Have used the Village Hall for 21 years since 1995 for 3 terms per year for Adult education. Cap on 12 attending normally have around 8 people per session. 4x2ft tables used which are not the same as the tables used by the Arts Society. Smaller tables used by Lee Papworth.

Bembridge Arts Society has used the village hall since 1982 and were using the library before that which was then located within the old Parish Chambers building. Got involved with the improvements to the village hall in 2005 and raised £3,000 towards the funds. In 2014 donated £500 towards decorating. Apologise to yourselves for making a rod for your own back and regard the considered plan withdrawn. Could read 18 point plan aloud which has been passed onto Alan Morris for consideration. Offer to show the contents of the shed.

Chairman of Society which meets 25-26 times per year in the summer outside with 64 people attending. All of the village hall facilities are used including heavy large stands that require access in through the side door as they cannot be brought through the corridors. Revenue 27% of fees from canteen use. £1900 income of which £500 come from selling teas and cakes provided by the members. Membership fee has increased 50% to make it viable. Village Hall tells us the running costs are at a marginal profit. Again assisted the refurbishment of the kitchen in 2005. Volunteers painted and got tables plus costs towards the boiler. The village hall is the prime exhibition centre for Arts. Storage inside the building would be better than bringing the boards in from the garden.

Library building if not secured by the Community it would be sold for commercial realisation.

Visitors come here during Cowes week to see the art exhibitions have some 4500 people during the summer months. If exhibition space was reduced less sales and fees would have to go up to cover costs.

Understand the importance of the Arts to the Village Hall. Arts Society also has a member on the VH Management Committee. Do value the input from the Arts and Markets to run the village hall.

Vital to have the kitchen and canteen area coming out onto the village hall. Oven is used at Christmas time for cooking. The majority of the times it's to serve tea and cakes. Don't like the idea of reduced space. Do need a double sink and fridge.

There was a misunderstanding around finance in thinking Isle of Wight Council would claw back £18,000 of the £126,000 precept. This is not possible. However, there is a proposal from central government to cap the Parish Precept at 2% in the near future thus minimising the amount that could be raised in the future.

The village hall is a success at the moment could have a nice extension at the back for office and storage. Underuse of Steyne Park and the Community Centre? If there is any reason to move everybody it must be here. Couldn't the office move there? Community Centre is small with windows around the top of the walls making it poor light for art classes. Car park is a plus. Park not central to the hub of the community. Arts need to exhibitions to be central. Parish Office could move into the computer room of the library. Why did the Parish Office move? 5-7 High Street in Conservation Area and on the Local Listing. Minimum required to the Village Hall is works to the roof.

Community Hub Group meeting on 17th November. Deadline for consultation forms 11th December that will be analysed. Continued community consultation to take place once the initial feedback has been digested and plans changed accordingly.

Emma Goldring
15th November 2016